

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MURAL ARTIST MYRON C. NUTTING AND THE WAUWATOSA COMMUNITY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as a graduate of Wauwatosa High School in a Wauwatosa, WI, I rise to pay tribute to Myron C. Nutting, a mural artist, whose work has been restored and will be rededicated on March 6, 2005, at my alma mater.

Myron Chester Nutting was born on October 18, 1890 in Panaca, NV, but moved to Milwaukee in 1934 to work as an art instructor at Layton School of Art under the Federal Arts Program. Before coming to Milwaukee, Nutting had lived and studied in Paris with expatriate artists and writers whom history has been labeled as the "lost generation." At the time, Nutting was considered among the top 15 Wisconsin artists with training both in America and Europe.

Nutting left Milwaukee in 1939, moving to southern California where his artistic life and reputation grew. He was a recognized portrait artist of many southern California clients, a critic and writer, and flourished as a lithographer, oil and water color artist. He died in Los Angeles in 1972.

Nutting had a close relationship with the controversial Irish writer James Joyce as evidenced by portraits he painted in the early 1920s of James Joyce's wife, Nora, their daughter Lucia, and the unfinished portrait of James Joyce himself. All three pieces as well as Mr. Nutting's other art work and personal papers are in collections at Northwestern University, the University of California at Los Angeles, the American Art Archives at the Smithsonian in Washington, and in dozens of smaller museums, galleries, and archives throughout the world.

With regard to his work in Wisconsin, Nutting was commissioned by Charlotte Partridge, State director of the Federal Arts Project at the time, to design and paint two oil-on-canvas murals at the then recently constructed Wauwatosa Senior High School. The work was started in January 1934 and completed the following June. The murals were originally hung on March 2, 1935, but were covered up during a renovation at the school in the mid-1970s. For unknown reasons, the murals were left unsigned. They remained covered up for 30 years until restoration work began 2 years ago when they were rediscovered.

On March 6, 2005, at Wauwatosa High School, the Wauwatosa Historical Society and the school district office will rededicate these two murals that have been beautifully restored in the main lobby of the school. These two 14' by 4' murals have been restored to their original museum quality and will be an important educational tool for the school's present and future generations.

More than 190 Wauwatosa High School alumni, as well as many members of the com-

munity, have donated more than \$125,000 to restore these historical art pieces.

These murals remain the property of the Federal Government and will be registered with the General Services Administration's office of fine arts, which acts as a steward for the preservation of these art pieces.

I join in honoring all alumni, students, the community of Wauwatosa, the many volunteers who have worked for many months to bring these artifacts back to their former glory, as well as the artist, Myron C. Nutting, for all their contributions to work and restoration of the mural pieces. These are all wonderful contributions to the school's valued history and tradition.

RECOGNIZING THE BENEFITS AND IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL-BASED MUSIC EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 45, legislation recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based music education. I was pleased to join my colleagues in passing this bipartisan proposal yesterday in the House of Representatives.

The advantages of studying music are not confined within the artistic sphere. Music education not only allows children a chance to create and appreciate all types of music, but it has been proven once and again that an awareness of the structure of music can actually help children do better in school. There is a growing amount of evidence indicating that young children who are exposed to the fundamentals of music develop stronger abstract reasoning skills, which are crucial for a broad understanding of mathematics and the sciences.

However, many of the advantages of music education cannot be quantified or studied with tests. The creative thinking and self-esteem that emerge from music education are essential for a full and meaningful life. Participation in music education can motivate students to become active members of the education process. Thirty-six percent of minority students reported their music teacher as their role model; a much higher percentage than any other discipline. As a teacher, I recognize this bond between teacher and student as one of the most important aspects of education itself.

In addition, music celebrates two of the most important values of our Nation; diversity and unity. By studying different cultures through the harmony of music, students are able to recognize the values that we all share. No other discipline embodies this spirit more than music education.

Mr. Speaker, music education enhances intellectual development and enriches the academic environment for children of all ages,

and as a result enriches our communities as well. I am proud to join with my colleagues in passing this bipartisan resolution in recognition of these facts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND INFANT TSU- NAMI VICTIM RELIEF ACT OF 2005

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will help thousands of women, children, and families who have suffered since the horrific tsunami hit Asia on December 26, 2004. This bill, the Women, Children, and Infant Tsunami Victim Relief Act of 2005, authorizes \$3 million to the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, to provide severely needed urgent medical and health care to tsunami victims in Indonesia, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

UNFPA has made an urgent appeal to donor nations to raise \$27.5 million to provide relief to women in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. Due to its extensive experience responding to emergencies, UNFPA was one of the first respondents in the tsunami-affected areas helping women.

More than 150,000 women are currently pregnant in the tsunami-affected areas, including 50,000 anticipated to give birth during the next 3 months. UNFPA is determined to enhance the likelihood of deliveries occurring in safe and clean conditions by providing emergency care, basic supplies, and helping to rebuild health care facilities.

Disasters put pregnant women at greater than normal risk because of the sudden loss of medical support, compounded in many cases by trauma, malnutrition, disease, or exposure to violence. In times of high stress, pregnant women are more prone to miscarriage or to premature labor, both of which require medical care.

UNFPA works to reduce maternal deaths and illnesses by providing prenatal care, delivery assistance, access to emergency obstetric care, and post-natal care. It provides services to avoid malnutrition, which frequently occurs after natural disasters when food supplies are unavailable or uneven. Vitamin and iron deficiencies, especially anemia, can be fatal for pregnant women and their babies. Nursing women require supplemental funding to ensure their health and that of their baby.

For example, in Sri Lanka, the UNFPA-supported maternal hospital was being flooded, and staff was able to move all patients but one premature infant to safety and it has set up a temporary facility to provide critical health services.

This bill specifies that the funds included can only be used by UNFPA to provide safe delivery kits—soap, plastic sheeting, razor

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

blades, string and gloves—personal hygiene kits—sanitary napkins, soap, laundry detergent, dental supplies—reestablish maternal health services, prevent and treat cases of violence against women and youth, offer psychological support and counseling, and promote access of unaccompanied women to vital services. Each of these issues is a serious problem in the region and will go a long way toward helping save the lives of thousands of women and their children.

These people have suffered enough. We must do everything we can to help them. This is why I ask support from my colleagues for the Women, Children, and Infant Tsunami Victim Relief Act of 2005.

HONORING JACKIE ROBINSON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate April 15—no, not Tax Day—but that memorable day in 1947 when Jackie Robinson officially broke the color barrier of Major League Baseball by donning a Brooklyn Dodgers uniform.

In the face of great adversity and knowing that the hopes of African-American athletes in all sports rested on his shoulders, Jackie Robinson provided inspiration to all of America in his courageous pursuit of racial equality.

By simply putting on his spikes, wearing his Dodgers uniform, and taking the field on that great day, Jackie Robinson forever changed the landscape of the American sports scene; indeed, he fueled a change in the hearts and minds of our great Nation.

Jackie Robinson stared bitter opposition and oppressive racism in the face, all while achieving unparalleled success. He was named the National League Rookie of the Year in 1947 and earned National League Most Valuable Player honors in 1949. In 1962, Jackie became the first African-American to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Known for his gifted batting, blinding speed around the bases, and strong but steady temperament, Jackie Robinson won the respect of teammates and opponents alike. He led the Dodgers to six pennants and their first World Championship as a member of the famed "Boys of Summer" in 1955.

Although he played in New York, Jackie Robinson was actually a southern California local. He grew up in Pasadena, CA, and was a star athlete while attending the University of California at Los Angeles. Jackie's long-standing commitment to Dodgers heritage and his strong Southern California roots make us proud and endear him to Dodgers fans from Brooklyn to Los Angeles and everywhere in between.

Jackie Robinson's sacrifice on and off the field has had a lasting impact on our nation. An athlete, businessman, and civic leader, Jackie helped blaze a trail for the civil rights movement in the years after his career as a player had ended. He conquered countless

steep barriers with faith, dignity and grace, and he stands as a noble symbol of change in creating a more just American society for all.

Jackie Robinson's spirit is still with us today. Jackie's life and principles are the basis for the Jackie Robinson Foundation, which keeps his memory alive by providing children of low-income families with leadership and educational opportunities. Perhaps Jackie Robinson himself said it best: "A life is not important, except in the impact it has on other lives."

To honor Jackie for his countless and valuable contributions, Major League Baseball declared in 2003 that on April 15 each year, all Major League clubs will recognize this remarkable athlete and man. That same year my colleagues and I passed legislation honoring Jackie Robinson with a National Day of Recognition and awarding him the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor bestowed by Congress. Almost 58 years after Jackie Robinson trotted out to first base in a Brooklyn Dodgers uniform, the President today will present the Congressional Gold Medal to Jackie's wife Rachel, daughter Sharon and son David, along with other members of the Robinson family.

I can think of no better tribute than to proclaim April 15 "Jackie Robinson Day." Jackie's contributions and sacrifices not only changed a sport, but touched a nation. No athlete may have had a greater long-term impact on his sport or society than Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride and honor to ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Mr. Jackie Robinson as the recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal and as a great American most deserving of his National Day of Recognition. Jackie Robinson's contributions have truly helped to make America "one nation."

RECOGNIZING ROBERT HARRISON GLAZE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert (Bob) Harrison Glaze. Bob Glaze served honorably on the City Council of San Leandro, California from 1984 to 2004. He was the youngest Vice Mayor in the city's history.

Bob Glaze was born in Oakland, California, and moved to San Leandro in 1963. He is a graduate of Chabot College and Marina High School, where he served as Athletic Commissioner and Curriculum Council member.

Alameda County and the San Leandro community have benefited from Bob's activism and commitment to make a positive difference. During his tenure on the San Leandro City Council, he served on a variety of Council Committees, including Finance, the Cherry Festival, Quality of Life, School Liaison, Revenue Sharing, Long Range Fire Planning, School Safety, Technology and Policy.

Bob is an Alameda County Fire Commissioner and an alternate member of the Ala-

meda County Transportation Committee, Alameda County Waste Management Authority, Association of Bay Area Governments and the Congestion Management Authority. He is a member of the governing board of the Associated Community Action Program and the Alameda County Training and Employment Program.

His community service extends far and wide. He continues to be active in all areas of Scouting, serving as Scoutmaster, Merit Badge Counselor, District Committee Member, District Finance Chairman, District Chairman as well as Exploring North Commissioner. He was 1993 Scout Jamboree Selection Chairman. Other organizations that have benefited from Bob's leadership include Washington Home Owners Association, Washington Manor Lions' Club, San Leandro Human Resource Commission and the Optimist Club of San Leandro.

Bob Glaze is truly an involved and model citizen. His commitment is exemplary. I join the citizens of San Leandro who will pay tribute to him on his retirement from the City Council and thank him for his countless contributions.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER H. SHORENSTEIN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American, Walter H. Shorenstein, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on Friday, March 4, 2005.

Walter H. Shorenstein served our nation as a Major in the United States Air Force. He is an extraordinary American who has made enormous contributions to our communities and our country. He began his career in real estate in 1946 and has built the Shorenstein Company into one of the largest and most highly respected real estate firms in the nation.

Walter Shorenstein has been a valued advisor to Presidents, a generous philanthropist, a noted lecturer and an ardent supporter of education. His numerous sponsorships, board memberships and honors reflect his dedication to art, culture, education, government and philanthropy.

Walter Shorenstein's life has been enriched by his family. His daughter Carole is a producer of Broadway shows, his son, Douglas is President of the Shorenstein Company, and his grandchildren Walter, Gracie, Brandon Jona, Sandra Joan and Daniella are great blessings to him. His lifelong partner in life, Phyllis, died in 1994, and their beloved and brilliant daughter Joan died in 1985.

It is a special privilege for me to honor Walter Shorenstein and to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this good and great American, this outstanding citizen and national treasure. As Mr. Shorenstein celebrates this important milestone, the gratitude and respect of the entire House of Representatives are extended to him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS AND IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Peace Corps Week and to congratulate the 7,700 Peace Corp Volunteers—including 30 of my constituents—who are serving their country today in 72 countries around the world.

More than 178,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 138 countries since the organization's inception in 1961. Every year, thousands of selfless volunteers share their time and talents by serving as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and youth and agriculture workers.

Over 3,100 volunteers work directly or indirectly on HIV/AIDS prevention and education activities throughout the world, and support efforts in 10 of the 15 focus countries in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

I praise our nation's Peace Corps volunteers who serve their country and the world as humanitarians, devoting themselves to transferring life-changing knowledge and skills to the people of other nations.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the hundreds of thousands of men and women of this nation who have selflessly served abroad as Peace Corps Volunteers. On this 44th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, I am especially proud to represent 30 such volunteers and I offer them my sincere gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROWARD COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR, MS. JASMINE DEBOO

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jasmin Deboo, who was awarded Broward County, Florida's Teacher of the Year. Ms. Deboo has dedicated her life to her 5th Grade students at Deerfield Beach Elementary School for the last 11 years.

Ms. Deboo's dedication to her students is quite apparent. She has gone above and beyond the average duties of a teacher by taking on the roles of a surrogate parent and that of counselor helping children deal with personal problems. This style of leadership has allowed Ms. Deboo to become a role model for not only her students, but also for other teachers at her school. Ms. Deboo is a person who has had a positive impact on all those lucky enough to be around her.

Today, we recognize Jasmin Deboo for her accomplishments and her dedication to the students of Broward County, Florida. I congratulate Ms. Deboo on being named the 2005 Broward County Teacher of the Year.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE OF PASADENA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena, California. During the months of February and March, the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

The church began in 1905 and was led by Founding Pastor Dr. John W. Goodwin with 54 members that met in each others' homes. As the congregation grew, the church moved to Mary Street in 1906, then Raymond Avenue, Mountain Street, and finally Sierra Madre Boulevard, where it resides today. Today the church has over 2000 members, which includes a congregation with nine different cultural backgrounds.

First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena had several notable Pastors, including Pastor James Dobson, Founder and Chairman of Focus on the Family, and his wife Shirley, who were members for over thirty years. Other Pastors were J.W. Ellis, Earl G. Lee, H.B. London, Dr. Stephen Green, Dr. Jeff Crosno and the current Pastor, Jay Ahlemann.

The church has many programs that serve the community. The Compassionate Ministries program consists of: Helping Hands—a food and clothing facility on the church campus, Church in the Park—service to the homeless on Sunday mornings, El Centro Trabajo—an advocacy organization for day laborers, and a South Central Los Angeles food distribution center. Compassionate Ministries fed and clothed more than 22,000 people last year.

Other programs include PrimeTime which provides fellowship for seniors and Loveline, a phone ministry for homebound seniors. In His Image serves families of special needs children on a weekly basis, providing Sunday School classes, parent connections and support groups, respite events for the parents, an all-inclusive sports program for the entire family, and special events like the Special Olympics Unified Basketball event, San Gabriel Valley Region. Parent Education Seminars, Support Groups through the Recovery Ministries, Sunday School, Sunrise Preschool and Academy of the Arts are also among the many services that the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena offers to its members and the community.

I am proud to recognize the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena for its 100 years of offering a place of loving care and joyous worship to the people of the San Gabriel Valley and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the congregation for their remarkable achievements.

HONORING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating

Rotary International on celebrating its 100th anniversary. On Saturday, February 26, the Rotary Clubs of Genesee, Shiawasee and Lapeer Counties will celebrate this milestone with a Centennial Gala to be held at Genesys Banquet Center in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

Rotary International, founded on February 23, 1905, is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 31,000 Rotary Clubs located in 166 countries. In Rotary Area Seven, which includes my district, there are almost 600 members making the commitment to address community and international issues.

Rotarians are committed to the motto "Service Above Self" and to "The Four-Way Test" of business ethics, a philosophy that encourages truth, fairness, goodwill, and mutual benefit in all professional actions.

The Four-Way Test:

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?

4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

They support efforts to provide educational opportunities and to meet basic human needs because these efforts are essential steps to greater world understanding, goodwill, and peace. The founding of Rotary International encouraged the creation and expansion of service clubs in the 20th century, and these service clubs generated a formalized spirit of community volunteerism throughout the United States and the world.

The PolioPlus program, created by Rotary International to fight the dreaded disease, has helped to vaccinate more than two billion children. They are the only nongovernmental organization to join in partnership with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to achieve the goal of the total eradication of polio in 2005. Their work is an outstanding and noteworthy humanitarian effort by a nonprofit organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Rotary International on celebrating its 100th anniversary. As a Rotary Club fellowship beneficiary, I can attest to the unwavering support they give to the community and applaud their involvement in the State of Michigan and beyond.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA AND SAMUEL RICHARDSON DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to take part in the celebration of Black History Month by recognizing distinguished civil and human rights leaders from the state of Minnesota: Virginia and Samuel Richardson.

Samuel Richardson was born in Longview, Texas where he lived until he enrolled in Morehouse College. He moved to Minnesota in 1950 and immediately joined the local branch of the NAACP.

Wanting to see his children grow up in a place that valued equality, Samuel Richardson fought for it in numerous ways, such as by picketing the F.W. Woolworth's in St. Paul to advocate for equal access and jobs for African Americans there. He advocated for fair housing. He marched with Martin Luther King in Washington in 1963. He joined numerous organizations and served as their leader.

Virginia Bardwell Richardson was born in Huntington, Tennessee. She attended the University of Minnesota, became a mother, and has always been passionate about education. She joined local activist organizations and served in leadership positions throughout her entire adult life.

When Samuel was hired by Supermarket giant Applebaum's in a prominent marketing position, he was one of the only black advertising directors west of Chicago. After a long career with Applebaum's, he became the Minnesota State Commissioner of Human Rights. There, he focused on new laws to address discrimination of all kinds, and to promote protections for people with disabilities. He then worked for the State of Minnesota's Department of Education, where he remained from 1971 until 1997.

While raising four children, Virginia was a critical part of volunteer organizations, including Assistant Chair of the Minneapolis Democratic-Farmer-Labor party, Minneapolis Public Schools' quality committee and the Minnesota Epilepsy Board. Almost 25 years ago, she went to work full-time at the PACER Center (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights). Today, she serves as its manager of Parent Training.

Samuel and Virginia are founders of the Bryant Village Initiative. This neighborhood-based organization works to make residents' voices heard about the effectiveness of city and county programs. It also provides critical input to the police department and welfare programs to help make their work more successful.

The Richardsons are heavily involved in the Oakland Methodist Church. Both were active in their children's school Parent Teacher Associations. They have also been active politically, including work on the campaign to help the first black woman Mayor of Minneapolis get her start in politics.

"Most people are simply sitting and waiting to be led. All you have to do is step up and do it," Samuel Richardson said. "You want to see change and you want to see people enjoy all the things the Constitution offers."

Mr. Speaker, this generous activist couple is one example of the critical leadership required for the change that makes our nation a better place. Samuel and Virginia Richardson have advocated for positive change in our country on behalf of African Americans, women, the disabled, and the poor. I can only hope that today we are developing leaders for the future who have the Richardsons' same high level of dedication to public service.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND
GEOFFREY B. CURTISS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Geoffrey B. Curtiss on the

25th anniversary of his ministry at All Saints Episcopal Parish and the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The parish will celebrate these important milestones at a service and reception on March 5, 2005, in Hoboken, New Jersey.

During his years as a priest, Rev. Curtiss has gone above and beyond his duties to his parish. With incredible motivation and a sincere desire to improve the lives of others, he has diligently worked to build a network of support services and organizations that have helped revitalize and transform the community. Upon beginning his service in Hudson County, Rev. Curtiss oversaw the consolidation of three, local Episcopal churches into one, now known as the All Saints Episcopal Parish. From the beginning, the church established a precedent for being progressive and accepting and welcoming people from all stages of life and segments of the community. Under Rev. Curtiss's strong leadership and creative vision, the All Saints Episcopal Parish has become more than a place of worship for its nearly 300 congregants; it is well-known for its community outreach initiatives and ministries. In addition to the church, Hudson County benefits from related programs Rev. Curtiss has helped found such as the All Saints Episcopal Day School, the youth ministry known as WOODY, and the Jubilee Family Life Center, which offers an after-school program and summer camp for youth from the Hoboken housing projects.

An influential member of the community, Rev. Curtiss has held numerous leadership positions in the past and continues to be greatly involved. For the Christ Hospital, Rev. Curtiss is the chair of both the Community Relations Committee and the Quality Improvement Committee, vice-chair of the Board of Trustees, and a member of the Transitional Committee. He is the president of the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice and treasurer of the Jubilee Interfaith Organization, which promotes immigrant rights and worker justice.

As president of the Hoboken Clergy Coalition in 1982, Rev. Curtiss was instrumental in the establishment of the Hoboken Shelter for the Homeless. A past president of the Board of Trustees of the Hoboken North Hudson YMCA and past president of the Hoboken Rotary Club, Rev. Curtiss is still an active member of both organizations. He is also a member of the Diocesan Council, the Episcopal Urban Caucus, the Department of Missions Board, the Commission to Dismantle Racism, and the non-profit housing board known as the Union City Renaissance Urban Renewal Association.

Rev. Curtiss received his bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College and later graduated with a master's degree from the Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Geoffrey B. Curtiss for his years of dedicated, selfless service to the community. His passion to help those in need and strong leadership cannot be matched—and his work has touched the lives of countless individuals in Hoboken and the greater community. We congratulate him on his important career milestones and we are grateful to have such a positive force supporting and serving the community.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PFC MIN S.
CHOI

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a New Jersey resident who served with dignity and honor as a soldier in Iraq. I join his family, friends and members of his community in mourning this great loss.

On Saturday, February 26, Army Private First Class Min S. Choi, 21, of River Vale, New Jersey died in Athertha, Iraq when an explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Choi was assigned to the Army Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

A resident of River Vale, N.J., Choi attended Pascack Valley High School. PFC Choi and his family emigrated to the United States from South Korea seven years ago. Following graduation in 2003, Choi enlisted in the Army because he wanted to serve his new country, and aspired to become a military officer and a United States citizen. His commitment to his adopted country and home humble us, and underscore how much we must treasure and protect the freedoms and democratic ideals of our great nation.

This loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When their Nation called them to duty to preserve freedom and the security of our neighbors, they answered without hesitation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to recognize the life of a proud soldier and heroic representative of the State of New Jersey. Army PFC Min S. Choi was an honorable defender of liberty and he deserves our gratitude and respect.

We remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, but also as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. May we keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle to endure this difficult period and mourn the heroes America has lost.

TRIBUTE TO PEOPLE OF NAGORNO
KARABAKH

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of Nagorno Karabakh, who recently celebrated the seventeenth anniversary of their National Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the courageous people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite their homeland with Armenia. They sought to correct the injustices of the brutal Stalin regime, under which the ethnic Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh was involuntarily placed within the borders of Azerbaijan.

Despite the peaceful request by the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement, the

central Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership responded with violence, which escalated to a brutal campaign against the people of Nagomo Karabakh. These brave citizens refused to give up their right to live in freedom on their ancestral land, fighting for the principles of democracy and human rights upon which our own country was founded.

Today, the unwavering strength of the Freedom Movement can be seen in the democratically-elected government of Nagomo Karabakh. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenia Issues, I congratulate the people of Nagomo Karabakh for their steadfast commitment to promoting freedom, democracy and economic development over the past seventeen years.

It is my hope that the past efforts of Nagomo Karabakh to achieve a peaceful secession from Azerbaijan will help bring a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict with Azerbaijan.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES TO OUR NATION'S SERVICE ACADEMIES

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize several outstanding individuals from my district in West Virginia who have been nominated to our nation's service academies.

Making nominations to our nation's service academies is one of my most important duties as a Congresswoman.

These young men and women are all impressive individuals that have clearly demonstrated academic excellence, extracurricular involvement, and athletic achievements.

Their parents, teachers, and advisors should be very proud of their prestigious accomplishments.

I commend their parents and family for encouraging and supporting these young men and women in the pursuit of their dreams.

I am pleased they have decided to pursue military careers.

Those who choose military careers represent the best of West Virginia and ensure our state motto continues to ring true, "Montani Semper Liberi . . . Mountaineers Are Always Free".

There is no better way for them to use their talents.

I extend my sincerest congratulations for their nominations.

I am very proud of them.

These young men and women have my very best wishes for a bright future.

Jeremy Runco, Ranson; Thomas Flanagan, Charles Town; Sheena Huffman, Gerrardstown; Jerome Lademan, Charles Town; Samuel Talbott, Elkins; Tina Weekley, Ravenswood; Blake Chapman, Charleston; Garrett Dilley, Hurricane; Allen Hartley, Charleston; Alex Hemmelgarn, Clay; Matthew Kearns, Cross Lanes; Brian Martin, St. Albans; Jonathan McCormick, St. Albans; Noah Pfost, Ravenswood; Joshua Russell, Nitro; Joshua Suesli, Gassaway.

FOOD SAFETY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following article, which I submit for the RECORD, written by my constituent, Richard Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore is the President and CEO of the GIC Group. The GIC Group combines experience and strength in research, analysis, and marketing with financial services and asset management. It offers this expertise to the agribusiness and biotechnology industries to help businesses gain access to global and domestic markets, to add value to current agribusiness activities, and to identify new markets.

Upon leaving the Bush Administration, former Secretary of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson stated that protecting the safety of the American food supply should be a top priority. Mr. Gilmore's article addresses that issue. While I may not agree with all of Mr. Gilmore's proposals, I recommend this article to every citizen interested in the integrity of the food supply chain and the safety of the food we consume every day.

U.S. FOOD SAFETY UNDER SIEGE?

(By Richard Gilmore)

When it comes to the prospect of an agroterrorist attack—the use of biological agents against crops, livestock, poultry and fish—US agriculture has rolled out the welcome mat. Integration and consolidation in the industry widen the potential impact of any single attack. Internationalization of the food chain offers limitless possibilities for human consumption contagions, as well as economic and political instabilities. To combat and anticipate potential attacks to the US food chain, greater effort should be placed on designing new disease-resistant varieties of plants and livestock on the basis of genomic information. Stricter regulations and enforcement capabilities should be introduced not only at our borders but at the point of origin where food is grown, procured for processed for domestic consumption within the United States. At the same time, the United States must develop a comprehensive preparedness and prevention strategy of international proportions in close coordination with our trading partners and the private sector.

CHANGES IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND REGULATION

The US strategy of protection for the food system, as mapped out in the Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-9 of January 30, 2004, presupposes that in striving to protect production, processing, food storage and delivery systems within US territory, a credible line of defense will be created to protect the food chain and encourage a thriving agricultural economy. In fact, US agriculture has undergone dramatic change. For crops, 'farm to fork' no longer is confined to a regionally based agricultural system, but now encompasses a highly integrated and consolidated global undertaking. For livestock, 'hoof to home' now takes on a new meaning that includes a high concentration of production, specialization of calf operations, long distance shipping and massive feedlots averaging thousands of head marketed per facility, for both domestic and international consumption. These commercial developments have resulted in previously unimaginable production and han-

dling efficiencies in domestic and export markets.

In 2001, over 70% of processed food in the United States was purchased from other countries, representing almost 30% of final gross product. Fifteen of the top 25 food and beverage companies in the global market are US owned, accounting for about 10% of the global market. US multinational companies account for roughly 6.5%. With greater consolidation on a global scale, interaffiliate trades account for an increasing portion of the value of the food chain. Like other nations, the United States is moving from self-sufficiency to an increasing dependence on other countries for its food supply.

At the same time, the US regulatory infrastructure for food safety is still a work in progress and is hobbled by overdependence on the private sector and underdependence on international cooperation. Whether it is a matter of detection, surveillance or information flow, the US government is currently dependent on the private sector for cooperation and support. To share information, government and industry have established the Food and Agriculture Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC; Washington, DC, USA), which includes key industry association representatives, especially from the processed food and feed sectors.

The Bioterrorism Act of 2002 sets up tracking mechanisms whose effectiveness depends on industry self-reporting. New food import regulations issued by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA; Rockville, MD, USA) now require prior notification of eight hours for goods arriving by ship, four hours by rail or air and two hours by road. This dependence on the private sector is burdensome for companies and both insufficient and unreliable for ensuring the public's food safety concerns.

Current regulations have evolved since last December, after a reality check of the US government's enforcement capabilities along with industry's feedback and support. The initial regulations failed on both counts and the prospects for the latest regulations remain uncertain. FDA and the Customs & Border Protection Agency (Washington, DC, USA) still have not adequately funded the enforcement infrastructure nor trained personnel to ensure statistically random, uniform inspections under the new prenotification time frames. Industry is called upon to fill the breach but is still relatively unprepared, with insufficient resource commitment to comply fully with the latest regulations.

There remains a remarkable lack of consultation, joint surveillance and shared research with trading partners worldwide. Whether grits or pasta, the US diet still thrives on an international food supply chain. Similarly, food protection and terrorist prevention have to be internationalized, particularly given the advances that continental-wide Europe and Japan have achieved in this regard.

THE THREATS

Although no precedent exists for an agroterrorist attack on the food chain, the dire consequences of natural outbreaks provide a glimpse of the potential damage that could be wrought. The scale of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks in Taiwan in 1997 and in the UK in 2001 or the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic in the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2002 was more devastating than previous epidemics because of the size and structure of modern agricultural production. Taiwan was forced to slaughter more than 8 million pigs and suspend its exports. In the United Kingdom, 4.2 million animals were destroyed in 2001 and 2002, with devastating economic consequences. The cost to Taiwan, a major supplier to Japan, was estimated to be over \$20

billion. In the United Kingdom, direct compensation payments alone amounted to approximately \$9.6 billion. Because of two major outbreaks of BSE, the United Kingdom slaughtered approximately 5.8 million head of cattle (30 months or older), with an impact of up to \$8 billion for the 2000-2001 occurrence alone. The 2003 Dutch outbreak of H7N7, a very pathogenic strain of avian influenza virus, resulted in the necessary culling of over 28 million birds out of a total of 100 million. These numbers pale in comparison to the estimates for a terrorist-induced pathogen release at the heart of the international food chain. The range is astonishing, from almost \$7 billion due to a contagion of Asiatic citrus canker on Florida's citrus fruit alone to \$27 billion in trade losses for FMD.

An array of pathogens could be introduced easily and effectively with assurance of widespread health, economic and political impacts. For livestock, the prime candidates are FMD and African swine fever (ASF). FMD is particularly attractive from a terrorist standpoint because it is a highly contagious viral infection with a morbidity rate of 100% in cattle. ASF is equally effective.

Next on the list are the zoonotic diseases, which offer a different strategy: using animals to infect humans. Brucellosis, though not fatal, results in chronic disease; some paramyxoviruses can be passed through direct contact with animals and feature a mortality rate in humans of 36%; certain arboviruses, such as Japanese encephalitis virus, which is spread by insect vectors, and cutaneous forms of anthrax could be readily introduced in the United States. Animal hides, an import item to the US, are a common carrier of anthrax spores that can be readily inhaled and prove fatal for humans.

When it comes to crop pathogens, the list is equally long and ominous: stem rust for cereals and wheat, southern corn leaf blight, rice blast, potato blight, citrus canker and several nonspecific plant pathogens. Although not transmittable to humans, these pathogens would cut a wide and devastating swath in crop production.

It takes relatively few dollars and little imagination to introduce these deadly pathogens. Just like a crop duster or even hand spray pumps, aerosol would be an effective means to introduce the crop pathogen of choice on plants. A terrorist could also rely on cross border winds or water systems to carry a harmful pathogen from another country into the United States. For animals, the options could be somewhat more imaginative, such as dusting a turkey's feathers with a pathogen agent and then filling small bomblets with the feathers to explode over a targeted area, mushrooming contamination as the feathers drift with the wind to such likely targets as a high density avian population.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPACT

Any agro-terrorist attack on the food chain would create marked economic instability and losses due to dislocational, trade and health effects. Every bushel of wheat, corn or soybeans (all staple food and feed items) in addition to beef carcasses and pork bellies, has a futures contract written in Chicago and on other exchanges in Europe, Asia and Latin America. These contracts are all written on margin positions, meaning that the financial losses on unfulfilled contracts would be a multiple of the contract itself. Apart from stocks, losses could be incurred as a result of the following: loss of business for freight-forwarding companies, cancellations of ocean freight, rail and truck hauls; insurance claims on cargoes; and abrogation of contracts up and down the food chain.

With only a partial and untested 'Bio-shield' system in place, one likely scenario is

that US politicians would adopt a unilateral response to what is an international problem in the face of a bioterrorist attack. Whether it's cross-border winds or the globalization of our food chain, the fact remains that much of our own vulnerability rests with imported pathogens. The US cannot seal off its territory from these pathogens. By attempting to do so, the government would make matters worse in the absence of uniform international security and surveillance systems.

The appropriate counter-terrorist response requires a global security system for sharing research, findings and coordinating strategies with trading partners where the United States sources and sells much of its food. Present policies risk the kind of economic repercussions experienced with Japan in the aftermath of the three-day soybean embargo imposed by the United States in 1973, which became a major shoku in Japan's economic history. Concern over food security, rooted in the soybean embargo, inspired the first and ultimate line of defense in Japan's resistance to liberalizing international trade rules for the agricultural sector.

COUNTERATTACKS

The first priority to combat these threats is to invest in the creation of pathogen-resistant crops through genetic engineering. The National Plant Genome Initiative (Washington, DC, USA) is an international collaboration between academia and the private sector to build a plant genome research infrastructure targeted at sequencing model plant species and therefore identifying genes associated with disease resistance. Together with information concerning large-animal genomes—the cattle genome is anticipated soon—genomic information can be applied to develop new strains of plants and livestock resistant to animal and plant pathogens likely to be used by terrorists. The US Department of Agriculture's (Washington, DC, USA) newly sponsored research centers and other joint government and private sector initiatives inside and outside the United States could also contribute to the search for resistant strains of livestock. In addition, short-term virus testing and monitoring measures can be adopted to address the problem of increased susceptibility of livestock to disease due to changes in cattle feeding and meatpacking. The discovery earlier in 2004 of a BSE-infected Holstein cow in the United States demonstrated that the monitoring and surveillance system in place is insufficient for rapid detection purposes.

There is also an immediate need for a stronger set of regulations that feature comprehensive coordination of research, detection and surveillance on both national and international fronts. Private industry partners in this undertaking must be treated equitably and fairly with a greater effort to broaden industry representation. The easiest step that can be taken to strengthen US defenses is to initiate and fund an intensive personnel training program to meet CBPA (Customs and Border Protection Agency) and FDA's ambitious program benchmarks for field operations, including port inspections, staffing and personal training, and industry registrations. We still lack uniform and consistent enforcement standards for industry and government agencies. Although that is the 15-year goal of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) run by the US Customs, nothing in place can accommodate different information and reporting systems in both the government and the private sector.

Longer term measures should include accelerated research programs and an integration and internationalization of policy planning and enforcement. Although the target is to create a practical system of defense for the US food chain, new endeavors to foil ter-

rorists also can result in a broader international system of preparedness. Lifting the siege is the first step.

INTRODUCING BILL TO BRING UNIVERSAL FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN TO D.C. AND NATIONWIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today on Read Across America Day the Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2005 (Universal Pre-K) to begin the process of providing universal, public school pre-kindergarten education for every child, regardless of income. The bill is meant to fill the gaping hole in the President's No Child Left Behind law, which requires elementary and secondary school children to meet more rigorous standards while ignoring the preschool years which can best prepare them to do so. My bill would provide a breakthrough in elementary school education by taking a step at the federal level to provide initial funding and, using such funding, to encourage school districts themselves to add a grade to elementary schooling at age four as an option for every child.

I often read to kids on Read Across America Day. However, symbolic actions won't do as we blithely let the most fertile years for reading go by while we wonder why we can't teach Johnny to read. As the President presses No Child Left Behind into high schools, my bill asks him to begin at the beginning of a child's education.

The Universal Pre-K Act responds both to the huge and growing needs of parents for educational childcare and to the new science showing that a child's brain development, which sets the stage for lifelong learning, begins much earlier than previously believed. However, parents who need childcare for their pre-K age children are rarely able to afford the stimulating educational environment necessary to ensure optimal brain development. Universal Pre-K would be a part of school systems, adding a new grade for 4-year-olds similar to 5-year-old kindergarten programs now routinely available in the United States. Norton said that the bill would eliminate some of the major shortcomings of the uneven commercial day care now available and would assure qualified teachers and safe facilities.

Because of decades of refusal by Congress to approve the large sums necessary for universal health coverage, the Universal Pre-K Act encourages school districts across the United States to apply to the Department of Education for grants to establish 4-year-old kindergartens. Grants funded under Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) would be available to school systems which agree in turn to use the experience acquired with the federal funding provided by my bill to then move forward, where possible, to phase in 4-year old kindergartens for all children in the school district in regular classrooms with teachers equivalent to those in other grades as part of their annual school district budgets.

The success of high quality Head Start and other pre-kindergarten programs combined

with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in the early years virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all of our children. Traditionally, early learning programs have been available only to the affluent and to lower income families in programs such as Head Start. My bill provides a practiced way to gradually move to universal pre-school education. The goal of the Universal Pre-K Act is to bring the benefits of educational pre-K within reach of the great majority of American working poor, lower middle class, and middle class families, most of whom have been left out.

In a letter to Congress last term opposing private school vouchers, City Council Member Kathy Patterson suggested that instead of vouchers, Congress should fund a number of unfunded D.C. public school priorities, including pre-K education for all 4-year old children. She said that although universal 4-year old pre-K was a top D.C. priority, the city has been able to provide this schooling to only half of its children from local tax revenue.

Compare the cost of day care, most of it offered today with an inadequate educational emphasis, at an average cost of \$6,171 per year to the cost of in-state tuition at the University of Virginia, which costs \$6,785 per year. Yet, more than 60% of mothers with children under age six work. That proportion is rapidly increasing as more mothers enter the labor force, including mothers leaving welfare, who also have no long term access to child care.

Considering the staggering cost of daycare, the inaccessibility of early education, and the opportunity earlier education offers to improve a child's chances in life, four-year-old kindergarten is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

RECOGNIZING LOIS GREENE FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LAS VEGAS COMMUNITY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Ms. Lois Greene for the contributions she has made to the people and communities of the Las Vegas Valley.

Ms. Greene's career of 25 years in banking and finance has enabled her to be an impassioned and pure advocate for small and minority owned businesses. Her commitment to God and her faith has been the key factor in her successful advocacy for non-profit organizations and the faith-based community. Out of her devotion to her ideals, she has helped transform the Las Vegas Valley and has brought hope to the residents that live there.

Without question, her professional leadership in community development has helped Bank West of Nevada achieve and maintain an outstanding compliance rating under the Community Reinvestment Act for the past 10 years. But also as remarkable, has been her work as the "Economic Evangelist," helping lead countless men and women out of financial bondage and toward financial freedom and economic growth through her efforts to

wage war on debt. As a result of her leadership, she has been recognized as a "Woman of Distinction," "The Most Influential Woman in Southern Nevada Business" and the "Minority Business Advocate of the Year."

I applaud her for her commitment to improving the lives of southern Nevadans of every age group, but more importantly of our youth. Her life story of humble and impoverished beginnings is one that transcends the color line. It serves as a remarkable example that hard work, determination, compassion and faith in God can overcome the stumbling blocks that were historically designed to oppress American minority groups. Therefore, her accomplishments are a triumph and her story is an example of success with which countless numbers of young people have found inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of her accomplishments, I honor her today and during Women's History Month, so that our Nation will be aware of her service and commitment to helping others become self-sufficient and realize their American dream. I am proud to represent her in Nevada's Third District.

HONORING JUDY GUERRA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, across America you can find people who make a difference in their community. Usually in quiet unassuming ways every day they help change the lives of people with whom they work and the neighborhoods they call home. Tonight, I rise to pay tribute to one such person, an outstanding and unforgettable woman from Indianapolis, Judy Guerra. Living by the very simple credo, "you get what you give" Judy has made such a tremendous difference in her community.

A mother of two, grandmother to seven, and a successful businesswoman, Judy truly embodies the spirit of community service and friendship that we strive to live by. Whether its sponsoring a local girls little league team, or opening her restaurants for fundraisers for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis, Butler University's Armed Forces Scholarship fund or just the local Christmas food drive, if there is a need, Judy unselfishly and tirelessly gives of herself to meet the challenge headon.

Judy Guerra does not belong to St. Joan of Arc or Christ the King Church but they are the lucky beneficiaries of her generous donations. Why? Because these churches are located in her neighborhood and giving back to all sectors of the community resonates deep within this Hoosier. When senior citizens on fixed incomes visit Judy's "Just Judy's" restaurant it's not unusual for them to receive a larger than normal serving of soup or extra sandwich to accompany the friendly service with a smile. If a local family finds themselves fallen upon hard times they know their troubles can be left at the door as Judy and her daughters will welcome them with open arms and perhaps a sampling of the day's "new recipes." And what makes every small act of concern and each gesture of kindness so remarkable is that they are simply second nature to Judy, as uncon-

scious as breathing. As her friend Maureen Cox said to me in an e-mail, "If there is a national award for generosity, Judy Guerra is our person," and I heartily agree.

Mr. Speaker, Judy Guerra is an amazing woman, an ordinary person who reaches beyond herself in every way to bring hope, and opportunity, friendship and caring to everyone around her. I am proud to call her a fellow Hoosier and privileged to honor her here today.

THE SILVERY MINNOW AGREEMENT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, water is a precious natural resource that we must manage as efficiently as possible. Benjamin Franklin wrote in Poor Richard's Almanac in 1746, "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." In parts of the West, the well is quickly running dry.

Drought conditions have affected nearly everyone in arid Western States in one way or another. Farmers are being forced to sell livestock, many cities are in various stages of water conservation, and many acres of land have been charred by fire. I believe we must use every tool available to confront these water problems, and doing so remains one of my top priorities.

We need to come at this from many different angles since water shortages present a multitude of complications. That is why I have crafted several pieces of legislation that focus on rural communities, water technology and augmentation, and insidious plant eradication.

I believe the combined effect of those bills plus continued efforts in desalination and formation of a national water council will greatly improve the situation of dry States like New Mexico.

Last week, a historic and long overdue agreement was announced in New Mexico regarding the silvery minnow. After five and a half years of court proceedings, not to mention millions of dollars in legal costs, the City of Albuquerque and an alliance of six environmental groups announced an agreement that will help ensure the endurance of the Rio Grande. The accord signals that water conservation and ecological goals on the Rio Grande are vital.

As part of the agreement, litigants in *Silvery Minnow v. Keys* agreed to drop any claim on the San Juan-Chama water for minnow purposes, as well as end their protest to Albuquerque's drinking water project and diversion of San Juan-Chama water from the Rio Grande. At the same, the City of Albuquerque has agreed to significant conservation measures that acknowledge the need for water to sustain the river itself as an ecosystem.

The project has been in legal jeopardy because the Endangered Species Act and the city's agreement with the Federal Government to transfer water from the Colorado River to the Rio Grande basin also recognize an essential need to use that water for ecological purposes.

The agreement gives the city and its residents legal relief, while requiring the city to do

several things to protect the Rio Grande as a living, flowing, natural system.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the agreement reached encompasses a central component that I advanced through legislation in 2003. I introduced the Middle Rio Grande Emergency Water Supply Stabilization Act in an effort to find a common-sense approach to sustainable water management in New Mexico. I knew then that the "solutions" being bandied about were little more than quick-fix answers that would not solve our real water crisis.

My bill dealt with these realities and many other crucial issues. It set up incentives to conserve our water resources and develop collaborative solutions at the local level. It aimed to restore and protect the Rio Grande River and the surrounding Bosque, and encouraged technological solutions for new sources of water and methods to harness such technology to increase water efficiency.

My bill paved the way for the creation of a conservation pool of water to support a living river. This was a very different approach than advanced by others. The Albuquerque City Council and a host of other entities, including conservation groups, farmers, the New Mexico Conference of Churches, and AARP New Mexico endorsed my legislation.

I am pleased that the accord reached by the city and the environmental groups includes my provision. Indeed, for the first time on the Rio Grande space will be allocated in the city's Abiquiu reservoir for water that will be dedicated to environmental purposes, including sustaining endangered species such as the Rio Grande silvery minnow. Under the deal, Albuquerque has committed to provide 30,000 acre-feet of storage space for exclusively environmental purposes.

In addition, the city committed to help fund a \$250,000 pilot water leasing program that would pursue agricultural water for environmental purposes, and change its water billing system to allow residents to add \$1 per month to their bills to fund environmental water acquisition for the Rio Grande.

While the agreement is welcome, our work is just beginning. The White House's 2006 budget requests \$19 million in Bureau of Reclamation funds for the Middle Rio Grande Project. That represents a \$10.2 million cut over current spending. At least \$4 million would be cut from funds available for activities to maintain compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

In 2003, the Department of the Interior developed a 10-year plan to ensure a manageable balance between endangered species and water use in the Middle Rio Grande. Implementation of that plan, by the department's own estimates, will exceed \$230 million. Yet, over the last three years, the Bush administration has only proposed investing \$19.4 million.

Making matters worse, the fiscal year 2006 Fish & Wildlife Service budget calls for eliminating \$542,000 in funding for the Middle Rio Grande Bosque initiative, labeling it a "lower priority project."

Without support from the Bush administration, it will be more and more difficult to maintain the balance that is desperately needed. I will again do everything I can to see that these disastrous reductions are reversed.

Mr. Speaker, to be a conservationist is to be an optimist. While I wanted all of the stakeholders to reach this agreement much sooner, I am glad that consensus has finally been

achieved. It represents a significant step toward a fundamental change in how New Mexico and other Western States think about and manage crucial and limited water resources. As we approach similar confrontations in the coming years, I believe that we can use this historic pact as proof that seemingly divergent parties can reach a mutually acceptable and beneficial agreement.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERT C. "BUDDY" BENSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my dear friend, Robert C. "Buddy" Benson, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, civic activist, community leader, humanitarian, United States Veteran, and dear friend and mentor to many. His passing marks a great loss for his family and friends, and also marks a great loss for everyone whose life was touched by his own.

Grounded and humble, Mr. Benson was the quintessential "everyman," yet his seemingly ordinary life belied his extraordinary heart and generous spirit. He would stop whatever he was doing to offer a helping hand. On countless occasions, regardless of the weather, he would stop his car to help stranded motorists. Mr. Benson was a hero to the downtrodden, and consistently reached out to offer assistance to those who struggled in life, leaving a life-long legacy of endless acts of kindness offered to friends and strangers alike.

Dolores Benson, Mr. Benson's beloved wife of 58 years, their seven children, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren were central to his life. The united focus on family and service to others, shared by Mr. and Mrs. Benson, continues to illuminate the hope and promise of a better day for every citizen of this working-class community, from Seven Hills to Parma.

Mr. Benson retired from LTV Steel following 40 years of diligent and honorable work as a millwright. His friendly nature, quick wit and caring heart drew others to him, and he made friends easily. Concerned with the welfare of fellow workers and their families, Mr. Benson became actively involved in the steelworkers union. He held the position of treasurer with the United Steelworkers Local 2265 for 7 years, and served as their Chairman of the Compensation Committee for 35 years.

His life-long interest in politics and strong faith in the notion that "together, we can make a difference," served to enrich our community's Democratic Party. Mr. Benson served as the president of the Seven Hills Democratic Club from 1983 to 1999, and led the effort in organizing several political campaigns. His humble nature precluded him from reveling in awards and accolades. However, his compassionate service to others was often recognized. In 1994, the Seven Hills Democratic Club named him "Democrat of the Year." He was the recipient of citations from the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate Committee, which highlighted his humanitarian efforts.

Mr. Benson's faith was anchored by his church, St. Anthony of Padua, where he was

also a founding member. He volunteered on many community boards, including Pius X Council, VFW Post 1973, CAMEO, Southwest COPE, (AFL-CIO), and the Finance Committee of St. Anthony's.

Mr. Benson's greatest legacy is reflected in the lives of his family and friends; within the peaceful calm of St. Anthony's Church; within the energy of the Seven Hills Democratic Party, along the halls of Parma City Hall, and within the hearts of everyone whose life was touched by his.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Robert C. "Buddy" Benson. The infinite measure of his heart, his courage, vision and integrity, defined his life and served to lift the lives of countless individuals and families throughout our west side suburbs. Mr. Benson's kindness, energy and compassion will be greatly missed within the hearts of his many friends, including my own. I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Dolores; His children, Robert, Jacqueline, Patrick, Mary, Elizabeth, Denis and Christine; His grandchildren, Gina, Kimberly, Bryan, Colleen, Robert, Michael, Christopher, Lauren, Christopher, Stephanie and Nicholas; His great-grand daughters, Callie and Allison.

Robert C. "Buddy" Benson lived his life with joy, energy and in unwavering service to others. His eternal faith in humanity and his consistent willingness to give of himself, while asking for nothing in return, will continue to serve as a powerful legacy of hope and possibility throughout our entire community, and his kindness and service will forever live within the hearts of all who knew and loved him well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE MELANCON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 41, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF DAVID J. O'REILLY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of David J. O'Reilly, devoted husband, father, brother, uncle, friend, and dedicated public servant. Mr. O'Reilly's commitment to the safety of Cleveland residents and concern for those less fortunate, defined his tenure of nearly two decades of outstanding public service as a police officer in Cleveland's 4th District.

Mr. O'Reilly, a life-long Cleveland, graduated from Benedictine High School. Throughout his entire adult life, Mr. O'Reilly remained committed to the welfare of his Slavic Village neighborhood. Affectionately known as the "Mayor of Fleet Avenue," Mr. O'Reilly was a role model to neighborhood kids, and was a friend to our most fragile citizens, our homeless. Mr. O'Reilly's bravery and strength as a

police officer was equaled by his kind and generous heart. He consistently provided a hot meal or kind word to a person or family in need.

Mr. O'Reilly treated everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of their social status. He was just as comfortable in sharing a conversation with an elected official as he was in sharing lunch with a homeless man. His expansive heart and concern for others extended beyond the 4th District. He volunteered throughout the community, teaching community safety to neighborhood groups, and he also held leadership positions on the boards of many community organizations, including the Holy Name Society, St. Michael Hospital Community Board, and the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. David J. O'Reilly. As a police officer, Mr. O'Reilly dedicated his professional life to the safety of his officers, and the safety of the entire Slavic Village community. I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Denise; his beloved daughter, Rebecca; his beloved son, James; and also to his extended family and many friends. His courage and kindness will live on forever within the hearts and memories of his family, friends, and the public he so faithfully served.

**"JACKIE ROBINSON'S TRYOUT
WITH THE BOSTON RED SOX,
APRIL 1945"**

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this week the U.S. Congress is honoring one of the true giants of sports history, Jackie Robinson.

There is a little-known chapter in Mr. Robinson's career that is chronicled in the attached narrative. That chapter details an act of courage and creativity in the political life of Boston by Isadore Muchnick, a Boston City Councillor who served in the 1940s in the city. He deserves recognition for his achievement in obtaining a tryout for Jackie Robinson with the Boston Red Sox.

It also puts in context the courage and determination that Jackie Robinson displayed throughout his long and illustrious career in baseball.

It is a privilege for me to place this excerpted chapter, from the book "Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston" by Howard Bryant, into the RECORD.

JACKIE ROBINSON'S TRYOUT WITH THE BOSTON RED SOX, APRIL 1945, EXCERPTED FROM "SHUT OUT: A STORY OF RACE AND BASEBALL IN BOSTON," BY HOWARD BRYANT

Virtually everything about Boston baseball is conditional. What would have happened if . . .

So who knew that on April 16, 1945, the Red Sox would once more approach history's intersection? With FDR on his deathbed and World War II winding down, fate and the last vestige of a city's social conscience conspired and put the Red Sox in a historic position.

At the end of World War II, the question of black rights in America was again relevant.

Asking black soldiers to fight and die for the liberty denied them at home created renewed dialogue.

Now, baseball found itself at the center of the argument. Black soldiers could not die on the battlefield and still be prohibited from playing center field in the major leagues.

Segregation was an unbreakable rule. That blacks played in separate leagues was a practice that went largely unquestioned. When debate was stirred, either from a relentless black press or from the few mainstream white reporters who made integration a cause, there was always a reason why the time was not prudent for the majors to open their doors to blacks. The only groups that were truly vociferous in their appeals stood on the fringes of the mainstream.

But during the latter half of 1944 and in the early months of 1945, Eddie Collins was uncomfortable. He was the vice president and general manager of the Red Sox and was now being pressured by Isadore Muchnick, a liberal Jewish city councillor, who demanded the Red Sox begin offering some form of talent evaluation of black players.

It was a threatening concept. Baseball prohibited black players from the major leagues in 1884, and no serious challenges to that authority had arisen. The desire to keep blacks out of the major leagues existed in great degree from the players all the way to the commissioner's office.

Shunned, blacks created their own leagues, and the races played the same game on patently uneven tracks. To some, the very existence of the Negro leagues was proof that blacks didn't care to play in the big leagues.

Yet here was an emboldened Muchnick, potentially unsettling the balance. For emphasis, he approached Collins with a hammer. In those days in Boston, a permit was required to play baseball on Sundays. The city council required a unanimous vote for the permit to be granted. Muchnick told Collins he would withhold his vote unless the Red Sox agreed to sponsor a tryout for black players, a potentially crippling financial blow.

This was a new pressure. Led by Muchnick's threat and with consistent commentary in the black press (and to a lesser degree the mainstream), integration advocates pushed baseball as they hadn't before the war.

Dave Egan from the Boston Record pushed in his column for the Red Sox or the Braves to be consistent with the Boston pedigree and lead the major leagues into a new, integrated era.

Wendell Smith, columnist from the black weekly Pittsburgh Courier, joined Egan in challenging Collins as well as other general managers across the league to offer tryouts to black players. Sam Lacy of the Baltimore Afro-American had vainly tried to push for integration in 1939. In 1945, Lacy and Collins began corresponding about integration.

It was, however, Muchnick's voice and clout that turned a cadre of disparate voices into something of a movement. Mabray "Doc" Kountze, perhaps the preeminent black reporter in Boston, referred to Muchnick as a "white modern abolitionist."

Muchnick was the first person in the modern era to pressure baseball's power structure and come away with a tangible result. The Boston Red Sox would be the first team in the twentieth century to hold a tryout for black players.

"I cannot understand," Muchnick wrote to Collins in late 1944, "how baseball, which claims to be the national sport and which . . . receives special favors and dispensation from the Federal Government because of alleged moral value can continue a pre-Civil War attitude toward American citizens because of the color of their skins." What Col-

lins did next was a clear reflection of both the unassailable mindset of baseball as well as the arrogance of the Red Sox.

"As I wrote to one of your fellow councilors last April," Collins replied to Muchnick in a letter, "I have been connected with the Red Sox for twelve years and during that time we have never had a single request for a tryout by a colored applicant. It is beyond my understanding how anyone could insinuate or believe that all ball players, regardless of race, color or creed have not been treated in the American way so far as having an equal opportunity to play for the Red Sox."

Collins' cordial inaction insulted Muchnick, who pressed further. Collins had no intention of even granting the tryout, but he had badly underestimated Muchnick's tenacity. Collins was used to being in a position of strength when he dealt with baseball issues, but it was clear that he couldn't say a few positive, encouraging words to rid himself of Isadore Muchnick, a man who was determined to see tangible progress. When he received no satisfaction from their written correspondence in 1944, Muchnick alerted Collins to his intention to block the Red Sox from playing baseball on Sundays. It was a potentially crippling blow. In the 1940s, baseball clubs were almost completely dependent upon gate receipts as a revenue source. To infringe on that would surely get the attention of any baseball owner.

Jackie Robinson was fatalistic about the tryout. He didn't believe the Red Sox were serious about integration and wasn't especially thrilled about his own situation. He had only played for the Negro League's Kansas City Monarchs for a few weeks and was already disappointed by the league's air of gambling and disorganization.

When Robinson arrived in Boston, the tryout was delayed for two more days in the wake of Franklin Roosevelt's death.

[It] finally took place at Fenway Park at eleven on the morning of April 16, 1945. Two above-average Negro leaguers, Sam Jethroe and Marvin Williams, joined Jackie Robinson. The players fielded, threw, and took batting practice. [Manager Joe] Cronin sat, according to one account, "stone-faced." Another depicted Cronin barely watching at all. Muchnick marveled at the hitting ability of Robinson, whose mood apparently darkened. Joe Cashman of the Boston Record sat with Cronin that day and reported that the manager was impressed with Robinson. He wrote cryptically, with virtually little comprehension, that he could have been witnessing a historic moment. "Before departing, Joe and his coaches spent some 90 minutes in the stands at Fenway surveying three Negro candidates. Why they came from such distant spots to work out for the Red Sox was not learned."

Robinson himself was satisfied with his performance, although by the time he left Fenway he was smoldering about what he felt to be a humiliating charade. As the three players departed, Eddie Collins told them they would hear from the Red Sox in the near future. None of them ever heard from the Red Sox again.

Eighteen months later, the Dodgers signed Robinson, who would begin a legendary career a year and half later. Jethroe, at age thirty-three, integrated Boston pro baseball with the Braves in 1950 and would become the National League Rookie of the Year. Williams would stay in the Negro leagues, never again coming so close to the majors.

The remaining details of that morning are completely speculative. Robinson never spoke in real detail about the tryout. Joe Cronin never offered a complete account about the tryout except to say that he remembered that it occurred, although he and Robinson would never speak.

Thirty-four years later, Cronin explained the Red Sox position as well as the game's:

"I remember the tryout very well. But after it, we told them our only farm club available was in Louisville, Kentucky, and we didn't think they'd be interested in going there because of the racial feelings at the time. Besides, this was after the season had started and we didn't sign players off tryouts in those days to play in the big leagues. I was in no position to offer them a job. The general manager did the hiring and there was an unwritten rule at that time against hiring black players. I was just the manager."

"It was a great mistake by us. He [Robinson] turned out to be a great player. But no feeling existed about it. We just accepted things the way they were. I recall talking to some players and they felt that they didn't want us to break up their league. We all thought because of the times, it was good to have separate leagues."

Clif Keane would give the day its historical significance. A reporter for the *Globe*, Keane said he heard a person yell from the stands during the tryout. The words—"Get those niggers off the field"—were never attributed to one person, but they have haunted the Red Sox . . . Numerous Red Sox officials have been credited with the taunt, if it was ever said at all.

What cannot be disputed about the events of that April day are the final results and the consequences that followed. It was an episode from which the reputation and perception of the franchise have never recovered.

"I still remember how I hit the ball that day, good to all fields," Robinson later said. "What happened? Nothing!"

Thus the tryout ended bitterly for Jackie Robinson. But that evening, he accepted a dinner invitation at 9 Powelton Road in Dorchester. It was the home of Ann and Isadore Muchnick, the city councilor who pressured Eddie Collins and arranged the Boston tryout. Why young Robinson, who was 26 at the time, would be invited to dinner made perfect sense to Ann Muchnick. Fifty years later, she would recall the reason with a warm smile. "Because no one else asked him."

Isadore Harry Yaver Muchnick was born on January 11, 1908, in Boston's West End, on a residential neighborhood that no longer exists. There existed among the four children of Joseph and Fannie Muchnick strong beliefs in justice, fairness, competition, accomplishment, and the power of education. All four children of these Russian Jewish immigrants would attend college. Izzy received the first double promotion at the renowned Boston Latin School since Benjamin Franklin. He played goal in college hockey and lacrosse, lettering in lacrosse for Harvard in 1928.

Activism was a trademark for Izzy Muchnick from almost the very beginning. [H]e and his wife Ann were active in HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrants in America Society, and Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization, as well as numerous other Jewish organizations in Boston.

Izzy Muchnick commanded a principled, homespun rhetoric and possessed a natural political sense that would serve him well throughout his life. He taught his children lessons laced with humor, always containing morals of family and simple decency.

Being Jewish in 1940s America carried a considerable weight of prejudice, but Muchnick possessed a skill and integrity that led him to be respected by both the Irish, who controlled city government, and the entrenched Yankees, who dominated Boston's cultural, legal, and financial world. He did this without becoming an outcast

from his own community, and such a balance required real political skill.

Muchnick graduated from Harvard College in 1928 and from Harvard Law in 1932. The Yankee law firms that wanted [to hire] him also wanted something else in return for their lucrative offers: A name change. "Muchnick" was too ethnic, too Jewish. It wasn't a request that Muchnick was asked to think over. That was a condition of employment. Muchnick responded by opening up his own law firm.

If there existed in Isadore Muchnick the indignant streak of a person straddling two entrenched worlds, it was in the political realm where he felt he could best remedy injustices. [A]fter being elected to the city council in 1941, Muchnick found himself in constant opposition to the majority. He fought for equal pay for women in the city's patronage jobs and supported a redistricting of the city's schools that would have created some integration of public schools long before the eruptions of the 1970s. He was a classic East Coast liberal.

There was something about Muchnick, something both admirable and self-destructive about his unflinching adherence to his principles. Both of his children would marvel at the number of times their father would align with the underdog. In her personal papers, his wife Ann would note how much her husband gave of himself, often at the expense of more lucrative prospects. He consistently found himself on the minority side of issues.

Perhaps even had he wanted to opt for safer ground, his personal convictions wouldn't allow it. In this regard he found kinship with the uncompromising Robinson.

The duplicity of baseball angered Izzy Muchnick. He was a Red Sox fan, but the game's contradictions conflicted with his worldview. If it was the game that was supposed to represent the goodness of America, the ultimate arena of fairness, how could it be staunchly segregated? How, he wondered, could this impregnable line of segregation—which baseball maintained did not exist—go unchallenged for so long? Blacks were relegated to the inferior Negro leagues, went the baseball rhetoric, because they liked it there.

Perhaps even more than the game's obvious contradictions, it offended Muchnick that its government-endowed protection against competition and uncontested national standing produced in team owners a certain kind of arrogance. Their dance around integration was especially off-putting to a man of his credentials. No law prohibiting black players existed in the league's charter, although no team had fielded a black player since 1884.

For a man for whom standing on the right side of an issue was an absolute must, history would not be kind to Isadore Muchnick.

[H]is reputation, in fact, would be destroyed by one [myth] that would be repeated so often that it became fact. Instead of being known as the first politician to use his clout courageously and confront a resistant power structure, Muchnick emerged as something worse than forgotten, as the opportunistic, oily politician who sought to exploit both Robinson and the black struggle for civil rights.

Al Hirschberg, one of the first Jewish sportswriters in Boston, wrote in his 1973 book *What's the Matter with the Red Sox?* that Wendell Smith was the architect behind the tryout and that Muchnick saw a solution to a precarious political future:

"Wendell Smith, a television news announcer in Chicago before his death, had been fighting the color line for years as sports editor of a Negro newspaper in Pittsburgh. Because of a quirk in Boston's Sunday baseball law, he saw a chance to force

one of the Boston clubs to give black players a tryout in the spring of 1945.

"At the time, although Boston had had Sunday baseball for some years, the law Smith found was that it had to be voted on unanimously for renewal every year by the Boston City Council. One of the council members, Isadore H.Y. Muchnick, represented Roxbury, originally a Jewish stronghold but becoming predominately black. Smith suggested to Muchnick that he could insure a big black vote in his district by withholding his vote for Sunday baseball until one of the two ball clubs tried out a few black players."

In *Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*, Jules Tygiel wrote that in Boston, "The Red Sox and Braves found themselves in a curious position as they prepared to start the new season. The city council, under the leadership of Isadore Muchnick, a white politician representing a predominately black district, was pressuring the two teams to employ blacks."

Arnold Rampersad's thorough Jackie Robinson: A Biography stated, "behind the tryout was the action of a Boston city councilman and Harvard College graduate Isadore H.Y. Muchnick. In 1944, seeing his constituency change steadily from mainly Jewish to mainly black, Muchnick joined the ragtag band of critics fighting Jim Crow in baseball."

These historical accounts were not only inaccurate but were also a reflection of the crudity of the conventional thinking. The only reason Muchnick would become involved, so went the thinking, was to win a political prize. In the eyes of his children, it was not an innocent journalistic mistake that snowballed. Rather, the result, thought Fran Goldstein, was the permanent besmirching of her father's name. Muchnick was accused of acting to ingratiate himself to a new black constituency, but in 1940, Izzy Muchnick's Mattapan district was 99.69 percent white. In 1950, it was 99 percent white. During that year, 439 nonwhites lived among the district's 51,170 residents. In two of his elections, Muchnick ran unopposed. In short, there was no black vote for Muchnick to exploit, nor was there during the 1940s any difficult election year for him. It wasn't until the middle to late 1960s, after Muchnick was dead, that his old district turned from Jewish to black, which occurred long after Muchnick traded bitter letters with Eddie Collins. Hirschberg once apologized to Muchnick's son David for the error.

Outside of his personal commitment to fairness, Izzy Muchnick had no political motive to act on behalf of blacks. There weren't yet many blacks to work for in the first place.

How Muchnick's name was not only omitted from the Robinson tryout but was also subsequently brutalized in the retellings of the event is open to troubling interpretations.

The truth, however, is that the first American politician to disrupt the idea of segregated baseball and emerge with a result was Isadore Muchnick, the former Hebrew School teacher who could have made a fortune in a Yankee law firm had he only changed his name.

Muchnick pressured the Red Sox to integrate because he was the rare person who—like Robinson—often placed principle in front of political or personal pragmatism.

Glenn Stout, who along with Dick Johnson would write the most complete book ever on the history of the Red Sox franchise, never believed that Muchnick approached the Red Sox with the intention of receiving anything.

"It's much more the opposite. Looking at what he did I'm sure was not very popular. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been the only one hanging out there. You could say that what he did was political suicide."

What did emerge after the failed tryout of 1945 was a legitimate friendship between Jackie Robinson and the Muchnick family. When Robinson was signed by the Dodgers, Muchnick wrote him a letter that read in part, "My congratulations and best wishes to you on your well-deserved promotion to the Brooklyn Dodgers! Since the day when you first came here with Wendell Smith of The Pittsburgh Courier and I arranged for you and two other boys to get a tryout with the Boston Red Sox, I have naturally followed your career with great interest. I have every confidence you will make the grade."

The Muchnick house became a regular stop for Robinson when the Dodgers came to town to play the Boston Braves. After Robinson retired, he sent Muchnick a copy of his autobiography with journalist Carl Rowan with the inscription, "To my friend Isadore Muchnick with sincere appreciation for all you meant to my baseball career. I hope you enjoy 'Wait Til Next Year.' Much of it was inspired by your attitudes and beliefs."

Izzy and Jackie remained in frequent contact over the years. Robinson and one of his sons came to Boston at Muchnick's invitation to speak at a father-and-son breakfast at Muchnick's synagogue. The two men engaged in heated debate about the 1960 presidential election. Muchnick was a lifelong Democrat, and Robinson, in a move he would later regret, backed Nixon.

There was a clear spiritual connection between Robinson and Muchnick. Robinson, battered and weary from the fight, died too young of a heart attack in 1972. He was only fifty-three years old. Isadore Muchnick died nine years earlier, in 1963, but he was just as young, fifty-five at the time. His will to live, David Muchnick believed, was enormous. Over his final five years, Muchnick suffered seven heart attacks. On a rainy night in 1957, Muchnick received a frantic call at 5 A.M. from a former city councilor's wife. Her husband had gone out drinking and had not come home that night. Muchnick crawled out of bed and went out into the drizzly Boston night to look for his old colleague. At 9 A.M., Ann Muchnick received a phone call of her own. Izzy had suffered a major heart attack and had been rushed to Massachusetts General Hospital, which sits in Boston's old West End near Izzy Muchnick's boyhood home.

It was Muchnick who used his influence to push the door open, to force the Red Sox and baseball to publicly face itself. Even if Joe Cronin and Eddie Collins weren't paying attention, Branch Rickey most certainly was. Slowly, the landscape began to change.

In 1998, Ann Muchnick died. She was eighty-nine. In prior years, the daughter asked for family information and the mother obliged with poignant recollections. She wrote that her husband "was a wonderful man . . . helped so many, so many abused his help, took advantage of him. I could name dozens, but better forgotten." They also spoke of Jackie Robinson not as the man spurned by the Red Sox, but as their friend. "It was the Red Sox's loss," Ann Muchnick said of the whole tryout affair. "It wasn't his loss. Look at the career he had. He lost nothing. It was the Red Sox who lost everything."

In Robinson's autobiography with Carl Rowan lay another tribute to Muchnick. "Without the pushers and the crusaders, the waiters wait in vain; without people like Damon Runyon, and Branch Rickey, Wendell Smith and Isadore Muchnick, Jackie and the Negro might still be waiting for their hour in organized baseball."

In the end, the Robinson tryout failed because the Boston Red Sox were reticent from the outset. Led by Eddie Collins, the club had no real intention of acting beyond that April morning or as history would show for more than a decade thereafter. Within the organization, there was no guiding force, no catalyst with the vision to make integration a reality, and in years to come this would become the critical characteristic of the Boston Red Sox regarding race. Had there been a central figure in Boston, a Branch Rickey or even a Gussie Busch, who provided some form of vision, the Red Sox script would indeed have been different. It is more than a little damning that the months before the tryout and even after, it was Collins who represented the club and not Tom Yawkey, who stood invisible. At a time when the Red Sox stood at the precipice of baseball history, the team's owner lay deep in the background. Tom Yawkey was the only figure in the organization with the power to act boldly, and whether or not he harbored a personal dislike for blacks is secondary to his silence. That silence, in effect, would become a closing indictment. No different than the curved maze of streets in its city, the Red Sox lacked a clear-cut moral direction on race; against this, the combined pioneering spirit of Isadore Muchnick and Jackie Robinson never stood a chance.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF SERGEANT MICHAEL FINKE, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Corps Sergeant Michael Finke, Jr., who courageously and selflessly rose to the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Sergeant Finke was an exceptional United States Marine and was an equally exceptional human being. His life was characterized by his unwavering sense of duty and commitment to our nation, and above all, his life reflected a deep dedication to, and steadfast focus on his family—his beloved wife Heather, his parents, sisters, brother, grandparents and many friends.

Sergeant Finke grew up in Medina, and shortly after high school graduation, he fulfilled his childhood dream by enlisting in the Marines. His eleven years of service was framed by honor, bravery and duty. Throughout his military journey, Sergeant Finke carried with him a strong foundation of faith, family and community. He quickly ascended through the ranks, and attained the title of Sergeant. His strong intellect and solid sense of integrity evenly matched his exceptional sense of humor and kindness toward others. Sergeant Finke's entire life—civilian and military, reflected his generous heart and sincere concern for the welfare of others. He often and easily offered his assistance to anyone in need, asking for nothing in return.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Sergeant Michael Finke, Jr., whose heroic actions, commitment and bravery will be remembered always. I extend my deepest condolences to the family of Sergeant Finke—his beloved wife Heather; his beloved parents, Sally and Michael Sr.; his beloved stepparents Geoffrey

and Nadine; his beloved sisters and brother, Trisha, Tonia and Tim; his beloved grandparents, Wayne Finke and Donna Thompson; and his extended family and friends.

The significant honor, sacrifice, service, and courage that defined the life of Sergeant Michael Finke, Jr., will be forever honored and remembered by the entire Cleveland community and the entire nation. And within the hearts of his family and friends, the bonds of love and memories created in life by Sergeant Finke will never be broken, and will live on for all time.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW HOUSE TO OBTAIN CRITICAL INFORMATION ON OUR NATION'S SINGLE EMPLOYER PENSION PLANS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I rise to introduce a resolution for the purpose of allowing the House to obtain critical information about the financial status of our nation's single employer pension plans. Current law requires this valuable information about pension plans to be kept secret. This is wrong. Employees and investors should know all the facts. Employees should be fully informed about financial health of their own plan, and use that information as part of their overall retirement planning. The President says he supports making the information public. I have introduced legislation making this information public. I hope Congress will act on this proposal when we take up pension legislation later this year.

For now, Congress should be fully aware of the financial health of the nation's top pension plans as it debates ways to strengthen defined benefit pension plans. This resolution will insure we get the data to make informed decisions. Recently, the GAO put the Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation, PBGC, on its "watch list" for the second time in a row. The PBGC recently reported a \$23 billion deficit for last year. Overall, PBGC reports that private pension plans are underfunded by some \$450 billion, the largest amount in history. The Bush administration recently proposed hiking pension plan insurance premiums by \$15 billion over the next 5 years, and proposes billions of dollars in accelerated pension contributions. And yet, we are being asked to consider such a proposal without current and accurate information about any individual company's funding status. This resolution requests the administration to provide us this information within 14 days, while protecting any proprietary information related to the sponsoring company.

IN HONOR OF DR. DONALD P. BARICH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. Donald P. Barich,

upon the occasion of his retirement after 40 years as a beloved pediatrician within our community. His exceptional expertise and compassionate care of children, from newborn through late teen, has enhanced the well-being of thousands of families throughout our Westside community.

After receiving his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1965, Dr. Barich came to Cleveland Metropolitan Hospital to complete his internship and residency. Beyond his pediatric practice, Dr. Barich was on the frontlines of cutting edge medical research. His respected work has been highlighted by the American Academy of Pediatrics, National and Ohio Chapters; The Cleveland Academy of Medicine; the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine; and the Northern Ohio Pediatric Society. As a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Dr. Barich shared his expertise with students at Case Western Reserve University, University Hospitals, Metro Hospital, Southwest General Hospital, Parma Hospital, and Children's Hospital and Medical Center of Akron.

To this day, Dr. Barich continues his vital instruction as Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western University, University Hospitals, Parma Hospital and Southwest General Hospital. The outstanding service and care for every child and every nervous parent has not gone unnoticed. Dr. Barich has been honored on several occasions for his outstanding work as a pediatrician, and was also honored for his service to our country. In 1970, Dr. Barich was awarded the Meritorious Service Award by the United States Air Force at McClellan Air Force Base in California. He has been listed as one of the "Top Docs in Cleveland" for eight years running by Cleveland Magazine.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Donald P. Barich. Dr. Barich's contributions to pediatric medicine throughout our community are immeasurable. Moreover, his pediatric practice is a lasting legacy and reflection of the man himself—compassionate, patient and kind—and his gifted mind and expansive heart served to heal more than broken bones. Dr. Barich's care offered peace and comfort to an anxious child or worried parent, and his work at Pediatric Services, Inc. will be remembered for generations to come.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
CORPORAL TIMOTHY A. KNIGHT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Timothy A. Knight, who courageously and selflessly rose to the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Corporal Knight was an exceptional U.S. soldier and was an equally exceptional human being. His life was characterized by his unwavering sense of duty and commitment to our nation, and above all, his life reflected a deep dedication to, and steadfast focus on his family—his beloved wife Gina and beloved daughter, Chloe.

A native of Brooklyn, Corporal Knight graduated from Brooklyn High School. Following

graduation, he enlisted in the service, and planned on a career in law enforcement after his military duty was completed. Throughout his journey in the military, Corporal Knight carried with him a strong foundation of faith, family and community. He quickly ascended through the ranks, and attained the title of Corporal. Corporal Knight's strong intellect and solid sense of integrity evenly matched his sense of duty and kindness toward others. Moreover, Corporal Knight's life reflected his generous heart and sincere concern for the welfare of others. He often and easily offered his assistance to anyone in need, without regard to his own sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Corporal Timothy A. Knight, whose heroic actions, commitment and bravery will be remembered always. I extend my deepest condolences to the family of Corporal Knight—his beloved wife and high school sweetheart, Gina M. Knight; his beloved baby daughter, Chloe; his beloved parents, W.C. Arrowood and Jeanne Knight; his beloved sisters and brothers, Karen, Michael, Samantha, David, Melanie, Sabrina and Brian; his beloved mother and father-in-law, Jackie Collins and Dean Delligatti; and his many extended family members and friends.

The significant sacrifice, service, and courage that defined the life of Corporal Timothy A. Knight will be forever honored and remembered by the entire Cleveland community, and the entire nation. And within the hearts of his family and friends, especially Gina and Chloe, the bonds of love and memories created in life by Corporal Knight will never be broken, and will live on for all time.

RECOGNIZING THE PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS FROM OREGON'S
THIRD DISTRICT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy, speaking 44 years ago at the establishment of the Peace Corps, remarked that, "The initial reactions to the Peace Corps proposal are convincing proof that we have, in this country, an immense reservoir of such men and women—anxious to sacrifice their energies and time and toil to the cause of world peace and human progress." What was true in 1961 is true today; Peace Corps Volunteers are an outstanding group of men and women serving the cause of people everywhere.

During this National Peace Corps Week, I want to honor the service and commitment of the Peace Corps Volunteers from Oregon's 3rd Congressional District and express my pride in my fellow Oregonians who have chosen to devote years of their lives in service to others.

In particular, I want to recognize those Peace Corps Volunteers currently serving:

Adela Ardelean in Romania
McKean Banzer-Lausberg in Morocco
Melissa Barber in Mali
Danae Bayley in Kenya
Elizabeth Decker in Azerbaijan
Amad Dorotaj in Mexico
Jeannine Ferguson in Romania
Crista Gardner in Guatemala

Kortney Garrison in Suriname
Christian Gervasi in Azerbaijan
Marisa Heman in Cameroon
Shannon Lawler in El Salvador
Ken Meisel in Tanzania
Brett Meyer in Mali
Angela Newman in Kenya
Cory Owens in Senegal
Joshua Owens in Senegal
Elizabeth Peterson in Cameroon
Andrew Poundstone in Suriname
Kimberly Schneider in Burkina Faso
Amber Schulz in Romania
Hanna Seyl in Malawi
Cory Seig in Namibia
Adrianne Stach in Tanzania
Rebecca Tweed in Vanuatu
Joel Van Allen in East Timor
Jennifer Vomaske in Kenya
Luke White in Nicaragua
Eric Wiley in Bulgaria
Lucille Wilkinson in Guatemala
Brenda Wolsey in Albania
Corinne Wong in Gambia
Marta Young in Peru

Their work to empower people and communities in developing countries is a crucial contribution to creating a safe and prosperous world, building bridges between America and the world, and establishing a better future for people everywhere.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
JOHN RAITT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of John Raitt, beloved father, husband, and internationally known stage and cinema artist, whose incredible baritone voice, passion for life and handsome presence transformed the darkened stage into a place that sparked with enchantment, energy and possibility.

Growing up in southern California, Mr. Raitt's deep, harmonious melodies captivated audiences in local venues, from church halls to community clubs. His rising star took flight in 1940, marking his professional debut as a chorus singer in "HMS Pinafore" with the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera. Although he had little operatic training, his voice was as inspiring and powerful as an operatic master. Even his auditions were riveting, as he rendered musical geniuses such as Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein speechless and inspired.

From premier roles in award-winning theatrical productions such as "Oklahoma!," "Carousel," and "Magdalena," to significant roles in major films such as "The Pajama Game," Mr. Raitt won the hearts of theater goers and critics alike. His love of music and his dedication to his audience never faded, nor did his personal and professional convictions. Mr. Raitt was a man of unwavering strength, kindness and integrity, and he offered everyone and every audience the same enthusiasm, energy and respect—whether playing in a small church hall or performing on a Broadway stage.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of John Raitt, whose gift of song and kind heart is a legacy that will rise forever in the hearts of his family and friends, and within the hearts of every

person who heard him sing. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Rosemary; to his daughter Bonnie; to his sons, Steven and David; and to his many extended family members and friends. The gracious and joyous life of John Raitt will forever light our American musical landscape, and his invaluable gifts, reflected through song, stage and family, will be coveted for all time.

TRIBUTE TO DERBY, CONNECTICUT'S CUB SCOUT PACK 3 AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many alumni, families, and community members who have gathered today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Derby, Connecticut's Cub Scout Pack 3. This is a tremendous milestone for this outstanding organization and I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize the many invaluable contributions they have made to our community.

The legacy of Derby's Pack 3 begins with three Senior Patrol Leaders of Boy Scout Troop 3, who took on the challenge of creating a program for younger boys interested in Scouting. Because the Boy Scouts of America did not offer such a venue at the time, Manuel Pearson, Francis Barron, and Edmund Strang initially based their program on the English Cubbing program. Three years later, the Boy Scouts of America announced their intentions to adopt a new cubbing program and Pack 3 was officially registered as one of the country's first Cub groups. In fact, Cub Pack 3 has been recognized by the Boy Scouts of America as the Nation's third oldest continuously running pack.

With participants ranging in age from eight to ten years old, the Cub Scouts program instills an invaluable life lesson in these youngsters—the value in serving their communities—a lesson that they will certainly carry with them through their adult and professional lives. From food drives and fundraisers to fire safety training and community activities, they have a direct and positive impact on the lives of others and their community.

It is not just the variety of programs and services these youngsters participate in throughout our community that makes Pack 3 so special. It is the scouting tradition that exists within the Pack itself. Generations of families have begun their scouting experience in Pack 3, with many alumni continuing to stay active in the Pack as adults by becoming committee members, webelos leaders, den leaders, and cubmasters. Just as an example, the eleven Pack 3 officers have an average thirty-three and a half years of service in cubbing. The dedication they have to this organization is a testament to the impact of their own Cub Scout experience.

The strength and longevity of Pack 3 would not be possible without the incredible leadership they have had throughout the course of their history. Founder Ed Strang was only a junior in high school when he first took on the cubbing program as a Senior Patrol Leader.

As soon as he was able, Ed became the cubmaster—a position which he held for the better part of sixty-four years. When he was no longer able, Ed turned the reins over to current cubmaster Dan Cyrul who was himself an Eagle Scout with Troop 3. Though Ed is no longer with us, his commitment, generosity, and compassionate spirit will always be reflected in the good work of Pack 3.

Today, as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary, alumni and community members will reflect on what Cub Scout Pack 3 has brought to this community and their own lives. Touching the lives of thousands, Pack 3 has left an indelible mark on the City of Derby and I have no doubt that this strong tradition will continue for generations to come. It is with great pride that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Derby's Cub Scout Pack 3 on their 75th Anniversary and to extend my very best wishes for many more years of successful service to the community.

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR: TET, 2005—YEAR OF THE ROOSTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Vietnamese New Year: Tet, 2005—Year of the Rooster. To celebrate the hope and promise of the New Year, the members and leaders of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., will gather at St. Helena Catholic Church to rejoice with family and friends, enjoying Vietnamese culture and performances.

The Tet celebration will include recognition of community volunteers and leaders, and Vietnamese food, dancing and musical entertainment by the Vietnamese youth of Cleveland. Tet is the time of year to pay homage to ancestors, reconnect with family and friends, and celebrate the sense of good will and possibilities, rising like the first light of dawn.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc. For nearly three decades, this vital coalition of culture has reflected unwavering commitment, service and community outreach to citizens of Vietnamese heritage. The Vietnamese community in Greater Cleveland is a vibrant layer within the colorful fabric of our culturally diverse city—and the Vietnamese Community of Greater Cleveland, Inc. plays a significant role in preserving and promoting the ancient cultural and historical traditions that spiral back throughout the centuries, connecting the old world to the new, spanning oceans and borders—from Vietnam to America.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Le Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., and all members and leaders, past and present, for their dedication and support of Americans of Vietnamese heritage within our Cleveland community. As they celebrate the Vietnamese New Year, the Year of the Rooster, may they hold memories of their past forever in their hearts, and find happiness and peace with the dawning of each new day.

IN HONOR OF CARL KOCINA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Carl Kocina of Parma, Ohio, as we commemorate his February 20th birthday—one hundred years young—and still bowling strikes.

Mr. Kocina was born in Trieste, Austria, and arrived at Ellis Island as a young boy of seven. His family settled in Cleveland, and though far from their homeland, they kept alive the musical and cultural traditions of their beloved Austria. He taught himself to play the accordion, and with his brothers, formed the Kocina Trio. The Trio played for many years at social and family events.

Mr. Kocina was instilled with a strong work ethic—a philosophy that he maintains to this day. At 15, he started work in a local factory, and retired fifty years later as a supervisor of a plant that manufactured aircraft parts. Today, his active lifestyle reflects deep joy and energy, both on and off the bowling lanes. Mr. Kocina lives independently, and hones his culinary talents on a regular basis. He is surrounded by family and friends, especially his daughter, Florence Husbeck, granddaughter, Linda Butler, and great-grandson, Grant Butler.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Carl Kocina, as we celebrate his 100th birthday. Mr. Kocina continues to be an inspiration to everyone in his life—especially his family and friends. His energy, agility and joy for living serve to highlight the philosophy that life's possibilities and joys are within reach for every one of us, regardless of our chronological age. We wish him many blessings of continued health and happiness today, tomorrow, and for all days to come.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT SHACKLETON

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a retiring Michigan state legislator for his service. State Representative Scott Shackleton has just completed his third and final term representing the 107th District of the Michigan House, which includes Chippewa, Mackinac, and Emmet Counties, as well as a part of Cheboygan County.

I appreciate Representative Shackleton's six years of service to the people of Northern Michigan. Like all of us who represent this rural part of the state, he has worked to make sure our region gets its fair share in his role as Chairman of the House Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee.

I also want to mention Representative Shackleton's family. He and his wife Karen have two young sons, Henry and John. Each of us who has served in public office when we have young children at home know the sacrifices that families make in order to represent

our communities. I am sure that the Shackleton family has made those sacrifices, and they deserve our thanks as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Representative Shackleton for his service to the people of Northern Michigan, and in wishing him well as he leaves public life.

IN MEMORY OF MAGDALENO
SANCHEZ DUENAS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous American, a man who was willing to give everything to this country, but who got far too little in return. Magdaleno Sanchez Duenas was born in Maasin, Philippines on May 27, 1914 into a large loving family with seven brothers and sisters. Mr. Duenas worked several jobs throughout the years, moving in 1937 to Davao City. There, in November 1941 on the eve of World War II, Mr. Duenas was asked to join the impending fight for freedom as a soldier in the U.S. Armed Forces. Mr. Duenas proudly joined the 101st Infantry.

To say Mr. Duenas fought bravely is an understatement. In 1943, he joined guerilla forces living in the mountains. He fought without shoes, living on a diet of "camote" (yams) and "lugaw" (rice porridge). On December 24, 1942, he was captured by the Japanese while gathering food for his fellow freedom fighters. He was immediately interrogated, yet he refused to relinquish any information that would reveal the hiding place of the guerilla forces. That night, Mr. Duenas managed to escape and return to his mountain hiding place. On April 4, 1943, Mr. Duenas helped engineer and carry out a rescue operation that freed ten American soldiers from captivity at the Davao Penal Colony. Mr. Duenas kept them fed and hidden and helped them rejoin the guerilla forces.

For his wartime heroism, Mr. Duenas deserved fame. Tragically, however, this was not why he came into the public eye. Mr. Duenas realized a life-long dream and immigrated to the United States, arriving in Richmond, California in 1992. It was upon his arrival in America that Mr. Duenas and 16 other Filipino American World War II veterans were held in virtual captivity by an abusive landlord who beat them, kept them chained, and fed them only dog food, all the while stealing their monthly Social Security checks. In December 1993, a group of Filipino American advocates discovered the heinous abuses and rescued Mr. Duenas and the other Filipino American heroes that were trapped with him.

During his final years, Mr. Duenas lived quietly in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. Those who knew him remember him with deep affection as an endearing companion with a knit cap, and a folding two-wheel cart to get around.

It is a equally tragic that Mr. Duenas and his other Filipino veterans still have never received full recognition from our government for their patriotism during World War II. In his final years, Mr. Duenas was featured in two documentaries and his story remains at the center

of the battle for veteran Filipinos from our greatest generation. Sadly, Mr. Duenas did not live to see the story through to completion. He died this past weekend, on February 27th, at the age of ninety.

Mr. Speaker, since 1948 every Christmas Mr. Duenas received a token from General Schoefner, one of the ten soldiers he saved those many years ago. This simple, poignant gesture of gratitude is a reminder as Americans, we all owe this man and his comrades more than just a debt of gratitude. We owe them the promise of the full equity.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow more brave men like Mr. Duenas to die before we act on legislation introduced by my colleagues BOB FILNER and DUKE CUNNINGHAM, H.R. 302, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2005. This is the gift we owe to all Filipino veterans who fought along side U.S. soldiers during World War II.

HONORING ROBERT WARREN
PEARCE'S MILITARY SERVICE TO
OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Warren Pearce in honor of his service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Pearce was born in Terra Haute, Indiana, on November 20, 1921, as the younger of two sons of Mr. Owen Pearce, who is the son of immigrants from Wiesbaden, Germany.

At the age of 21, Mr. Pearce resigned from his duties on RDX and bomb development for Dupont and enlisted in the Air Force in 1942. He began cadet training in San Antonio, Texas; and rose to the rank of a First Lieutenant bombardier and gunnery officer on a B-17 in the 452nd Bomber Group of the 8th Air Force, stationed near Attleboro, England.

During World War II, he flew 25 missions as a Deputy Lead that involved the bombing of Wiesbaden, Germany, and food drops over Holland. His squadron also destroyed submarine pens, ammunition factories, and railroad marshalling yards in Berlin. When his bomber crew returned to the United States, Mr. Pearce stayed on in England to teach X Box Navigation and flew additional missions with a new crew.

After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army Air Corps, Mr. Pearce joined the Reserves where he served until 1957. He married Mary Jane Powers and moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he lived for 48 years; and as a successful independent businessman, Robert and Mary Jane Powers raised four sons who shared pride in their father's service to our Nation. Mr. Pearce now resides in Ormond Beach, where he currently courageously battles Parkinson's disease.

Mr. Speaker, because of Mr. Pearce's dedication to our country, I want to take this opportunity to recognize his war service, and ask all Members of the House to join me in celebrating the life and service of a wonderful husband, father and American.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO FOREST
PARK HIGH SCHOOL TROJANS
FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches, and managers of the 2004 Forest Park High School Trojans football team in recognition of their outstanding season. After losing 17 seniors from last year's team, the Trojans not only made the playoffs, but made it all the way to the Division 8 State Finals on November 26, 2004, at the Pontiac Silverdome. This group of young men from the Crystal Falls area in Michigan's Upper Peninsula truly deserves our hearty congratulations.

While their 12-2 record is impressive in its own right, the way the Forest Park Trojans won is even more remarkable. After losing their first game of the season, the Trojans made some changes and rose to the occasion, winning their next 12 straight games.

They were a team of young men that brought an unselfish attitude to the game that many college and professional players could learn from. Each one of them knew they had a role to play, and cared more about helping the team win than being the "star." Throughout the season, the team's motto was, "Whatever it takes."

After defeating Baraga High School for the District title, Posen High School for the Regional title, and a dramatic 12-8 win over a Beal City team that seemed unbeatable in the Division 8 semifinal, the Forest Park Trojans faced off against Climax-Scotts High School at the Pontiac Silverdome for the State championship.

The Crystal Falls community was behind their team 110 percent. One call to a local radio station letting people know that they could make donations to help the team, cheerleaders and the band make the trip down-state for the championship game yielded over 100 contributions.

When the big day finally came, the Trojans suffered a heartbreaking loss. But they handled it with the same class and character that got them to the finals in the first place. They realized that they achieved their goal just by playing in that championship game, and that they would be back. Many of the players who are returning next year are already hitting the weight room and looking forward to a new season, and to passing on the tradition of teamwork and hard work that made this season so special.

Mr. Speaker, each member of this team deserves to be recognized, and I want to take a moment to share their names with my colleagues.

Team members: Dan Surface, Clay Roberts, Cory Padilla, Joe Mussatto, Kyle Roberts, Andrew Gussert, David Lesandrini, Brandon Stebbins, Ryne Neyrick (All-U.P. First Team running back and All-State Honorable Mention), Seth Chernach, Joe Chernach (Captain, All-U.P. and All-State first team defensive back and return specialist), Bryan LaChappelle, Erik Peterson, Scott Santilli (Captain, All-U.P. First Team defensive end), Tim Wheeler, Kyle La Vacque, Stefan Randjelovic, Nick McCarthy, Ryan Martin (All-

State First Team offensive guard), Kevin Takala, Calix Sholander, Gary Willman, Rob Boussum, Eric Lato, Dustin Skibo, Mark Harrison (All-U.P. First Team lineman), Josh Bicigo, Brian Fabbri, Jody Gillespie, Nikos Kosmopoulos, Brad Anderson, Pat Peterson (All-U.P. First Team tight end), and Josh Novak.

Head Coach Bill Santilli; Assistant Coaches Dave Graff, Gerard Valesano, Bill Todish, Jeff Chernach, and Dan LaPoint; Trainer Mark Nylund; and Managers Bryant Wheeler, L.J. Burns, and David Burns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Forest Park High School football team, their classmates, parents, and community on their exceptional season and in wishing them well when they take the field again in the fall.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN MARK FRANCIS MCCORMACK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Santa Clara County Fire Captain Mark Francis McCormack, whose life was tragically cut short on Sunday, February 13, 2005. Mark was the first firefighter killed in the line of duty in the 58-year history of the Santa Clara County Fire Department. Members from more than 100 fire departments throughout the State of California gathered at his memorial service to show support for one of their own.

Mark began his career as a firefighter in 1989. He was serious about his work, and was constantly working to improve his skills in order to serve his community better. Mark's hard work showed in 2001 when he received the Award of Valor for his contributions to both the Santa Clara County Fire Department and the community. He was a model firefighter, an enthusiastic team member, and a good friend to his colleagues.

When Mark wasn't fighting fires, he worked as a volunteer counselor for the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation's Champ Camp, a summer camp in the Sierra Nevada for young burn victims. As a child, Mark was badly burned on an electric stove and had to undergo several surgeries to repair the injury. Mark always found the silver lining in any situation, and that's exactly what he did with his burn experience. He used it to help children realize that they are not alone—to help them realize their inner beauty. Mark was a favorite around camp, serving as a role model to many of the children he met there.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to say "thank you" to Mark McCormack for devoting his life to helping others, and for his service in keeping my home district safe. And my deepest condolences to his wife, Heather, who wrote to her husband, "You are my life, my hero, and without you my heart will forever be broken." I wish that hearts could be mended with words, and that I could find those magical words to say to you. Heather, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you, and that your husband was not only your hero, but Santa Clara County's, too.

IN COMMEMORATION OF COATS, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in commemoration of Coats, North Carolina. On March 5, 2005 Coats will celebrate its 100th Birthday. Coats is located in the Eastern part of my home county, Harnett County in the 2nd Congressional District of North Carolina. Coats' humble beginning is especially personal to me as my great, great Uncle James T. Coats bought the first acres of farmland that would grow to become this warm and hospitable Southern community.

Coats' history is rich with individuals like my uncle, who envisioned a town where future generations could work, live, and raise their families in the bright light of America's promises. I think of Ed Williams and John Talton who were among the first entrepreneurs to establish stores in Coats. I think of John McKay Byrd, a former sheriff of Harnett County, who contributed greatly to the industrial life of the community. And I think of the first mayor, J.K. Stewart who when elected installed the first electric lights in the town.

Coats has never strived to be an urban hub, more comfortable with its small town population of only 1,900. Yet, its residents are proud of their community. As a former Harnett County Commissioner, I have always enjoyed a special connection to the people of Coats, NC. It is a place rooted in appreciation for one's family, faith, and country. The Town of Coats and its residents exemplify the common-sense values of North Carolina that I am so proud to represent in Congress.

Mr. Speaker in closing I would like to send my best wishes and gratitude to the people of Coats, North Carolina in wishing them a Very Happy Birthday. I know that in the future this town will continue to be "a good place to live and make a living."

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO NEWBERRY HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches, and manager of the 2004 Newberry High School Indians football team in recognition of their outstanding season. The 10-3 Indians went to the Michigan Division 7 Semi-Finals, winning the school's first district and regional championships along the way.

Newberry is a small, close-knit community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula that loves its high school sports. This year, the Indians gave them a season to remember. In the fifth week of the season, Newberry faced Munising High School on the road. After a hard fought game, the Indians won 21-14, winning in Munising for the first time in 20 years.

In the last game of the regular season, the Indians renewed an old rivalry with Sault Sainte Marie High School. It had been several

years since Newberry and the Soo played for the "Little Brown Jug" but the Indians rolled to a 20-0 victory, reclaiming the Jug.

During the playoffs, Newberry defeated Inland Lakes 44-0 and Manistique 20-8 to win the school's first district title. In the regional finals against McBain, the team was down going into the 4th quarter. But Newberry stuck it out, scoring with just over 7 minutes to go and hanging on for their first regional title. Though they were defeated in the State semifinals, it was by Unionville-Sebewaing, the eventual Division 7 State champions.

In short Mr. Speaker, the Newberry Indians had their finest season in memory, and this was in large part due to the outstanding leadership of the squad's seniors. All year long, they kept the team energized and confident. The Indians always took the field believing they were going to win, have fun and work hard for four quarters.

Quarterback David Carmody, was a particularly strong leader among those graduating seniors. This young remarkable young man brought a unique perspective to the pressures of the game: he is a leukemia survivor. Diagnosed in 1996, a 9-year-old David had to face being sidelined from school and sports. After 4 years of treatments, David has been in remission since 2000. His coaches described him as an incredibly calm leader who never let anything on the field phase him. In fact, he often calmed them down during tense moments. In addition to helping lead the Newberry Indians to their best season ever, David was named to the All-Conference 1st Team as both quarterback and defensive back.

But while David's story is extraordinary, each and every member of this team deserves to be recognized for their hard work this year, and I would like to take a moment to share their names with my colleagues.

Team members: Derek Taylor, Andrew Schultz, Luke Shilling, David Carmody (All Conference 1st Team quarterback and defensive back), D.J. Bouchard, Dan Schummer (All-Conference 1st Team receiver and 2nd Team defensive back), Mike Houghton, Tony Perry, Stuart Papist, Mark Brooks, Corey Nicholson, Jake Pann (All-Conference 2nd Team running back), Jeremy Maeder, Zac Sarelle, Chuck Masterson, Nick Christiansen (All-Conference 1st Team linebacker), Zach Clickner, Avery Allison, Jonathon Bontrager, Kyle Ery, Caleb Flory, Mat Conway, David Burke, Ryan Bolda, Alex Herbst, Travis Stokes (All-Conference 1st Team lineman), Dustin Zitnik, Adam Holcomb, Kyle Bryers, Brian Morrison, John Pope, Matt Payment (Detroit Free Press All-State Team, Conference Defensive Player of the Year, All-Conference 1st Team lineman and defensive lineman), Justin Neff (All-Conference 2nd Team defensive lineman), Brandon Wheeler, Jay Thompson, Mark Doke, and Nathan Hines.

Head Coach Brandon Bruce; Assistant Coaches Bruce Dake, Jeff Puckett, Cliff Fossitt Jr., Fred Bryant, Larry White, Bob Cameron, and Randy Fretz; and Manager Derek Dake.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Newberry High School Indians football team, their classmates, parents, and community on their outstanding season and in wishing them well when they take the field again in the fall.

ACKNOWLEDGE AND HONOR THE
DOCTORS, NURSES AND STAFF
OF ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the doctors, nurses and staff of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, as they celebrate in receiving the 2005 HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence.

In receiving the award, St. Mary Mercy Hospital was ranked in the top 5 percent in the Nation for overall clinical excellence. The hospital also received the HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Patient Safety, ranking them in the top 2 percent in the Nation for patient safety outcomes.

I am proud to report that the awards place St. Mary Mercy Hospital as 1 of 30 hospitals in the Nation to receive both designations within the same year. It is a testament to the dedication, devotion, and determination of the men and women who daily provide a high quality of care to patients.

Mr. Speaker, the heritage of the Felician Sisters is the foundation for St. Mary Mercy Hospital, which for the past 45 years, has been a premier provider of healthcare in our community. Founded by Blessed Mary Angela, whose care for the poor and homeless in Warsaw, Poland gave birth to the Felician congregation, the Felician Sisters were dedicated to a ministry of healing and service, based on Mary Angela's mission of "responding to the needs of the times."

In the spirit of Mary Angela and the Felician Sisters I stand today to commend and applaud the great doctors, nurses and staff of St. Mary Mercy Hospital for their national recognition and accomplishments. More importantly I praise these angels of medicine for upholding the oath of Hippocrates by "maintaining the utmost respect for every human life."

REPEAL DON'T ASK DON'T TELL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to call attention to important legislation that has been introduced today, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act. I am an original co-sponsor of this legislation which would replace "Don't Ask Don't Tell," with a non-discrimination policy for all military personnel.

A decade ago, "Don't Ask Don't Tell" was enacted as a compromise to allow lesbian, gay and bisexual military personnel to serve honorably in the military as long as they didn't disclose their sexual orientation. It was a bad policy then and it's a bad policy now. It has resulted in the discharge of more than 10,000 dedicated and trained military personnel merely on the basis of their sexual orientation.

There are two issues this bill is addressing—military readiness and civil justice.

Military readiness is being compromised by discharging critically needed military linguists to fight the Global War on Terrorism. Shortly

after September 11, 2001, we can vividly remember the frantic search for linguists, particularly Arabic and Farsi speakers. But because of "Don't Ask Don't Tell," the Department of Defense has discharged 20 Arabic linguists and 6 Farsi linguists for no other reason than their sexual orientation. No one can dispute that these linguists, who attended the Defense Language Institute located in my congressional district, are mission essential to the Global War on Terrorism. If we didn't think so before, surely we can agree now that language capability and proficiency is just as much of a weapon system as guns and bullets.

Repealing "Don't Ask Don't Tell" is just as much a civil justice issue. It has created a separate class of people who are discriminated against based solely on their sexual orientation. Sixty years ago our military was at the forefront of the civil rights struggle by accepting African Americans as soldiers, sailors and airmen. The Military Readiness Enhancement Act will extend a non-discrimination policy for sexual orientation much as it did in adopting a color-blind non-discrimination policy. Ending racism in the military, which produced military leaders like Colin Powell, the former Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State, was an advancement of civil rights for all Americans.

The Constitution guarantees equal protection under the law for all citizens. Just because you decide to honorably serve your country by joining the military, doesn't mean you should have to forfeit the right to equal protection under the law.

THE 1995 BEIJING PLATFORM OF
ACTION CONTAINS NO RIGHT TO
ABORTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely clear that the "Programme of Action" produced by both the 1994 Cairo Population Conference and the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference did not create, adopt, endorse, or promote a right to abortion.

I know. I was there in an official capacity at both conferences. The outcomes of both were a remarkable victory for the pro-life movement—those of us who recognize that all human life is sacred and that both legal and illegal abortion is violence against children and the exploitation of women. It was a victory for vulnerable unborn children who would be killed by dismemberment and chemical poisoning and for women who deserve better than the cruelty of abortion.

The outcome was a stunning defeat for the Clinton Administration, which sought to impose an international right to abortion on the entire world.

So why is the Bush Administration seeking to reaffirm that the Beijing consensus did not include a right to abortion? Because clarity, transparency and truthfulness is needed at this time to dispel a pernicious myth—the big lie—promoted by some that these U.N. documents now endorse abortion. Nothing, Mr. Speaker, could be further from the truth.

Over the past 10 years, pro-abortionists have sought to convey the impression that

both Cairo and Beijing—by supporting reproductive health, for example—includes the slaughter of unborn children by abortion.

Instead of focusing on women's economic and political empowerment, an end to all forms and manifestations of discrimination, and an end to violence against women, some have sought to distort the Cairo and Beijing consensus to include the killing of girls and boys by abortion.

Yesterday I chaired a hearing on the horrific behavior of U.N. Peacekeepers in the Congo who have raped and sexually exploited girls and young women. As the prime sponsor of the "Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000" I take a backseat to no one in promoting women's human rights. Recent scandals, like the Congo or the oil for food scandal, begs the question of honesty and transparency at the U.N.

Despite having no mandate to promote abortion, the U.N. Compliance Committee for the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has recently scolded Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Luxembourg, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Uruguay, Portugal, Nepal, Northern Ireland, Lichtenstein, Paraguay, and Samoa for their laws and policies on abortion.

In addition, at the end of 2004, the U.N. Human Rights Committee issued a report that absolutely overstepped its bounds and told Poland to repeal their pro-life laws. The report stated, "The State party should liberalize its legislation and practice on abortion." For a U.N. committee that purported to respect fundamental human rights to condemn Poland—and others—for protecting their unborn babies is scandalous. Unborn children deserve respect in law and in practice—these littlest of humans deserve to have their basic human rights protected.

A Center for Reproductive Rights internal document talks about reinterpreting terms and phrases in international declarations, like the Cairo and Beijing documents, to promote abortion and limit parental rights throughout the world. I posted in the December 8, 2003 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the Center for Reproductive Rights internal documents where one of their trustees said, "We have to fight harder, be a little dirtier." These papers reveal a Trojan Horse of deceit. In their own words, these documents demonstrate how abortion promotion groups are pushing abortion here and abroad, not by direct argument, but by twisting words and definitions. In discussing legal strategies to legalize abortion internationally they go as far as to say, "... there is a stealth quality to the work: we are achieving incremental recognition of values without a huge amount of scrutiny from the opposition. These lower profile victories will gradually put us in a strong position to assert a broad consensus around our assertions." The abortion lobby admits they are using deceptive tactics to push abortion on countries that have laws protecting unborn boys and girls.

All the United States wants to do at this conference is to be truthful, nonambiguous and accurate about what the Beijing Programme of Action actually says about abortion and get on with the real work of helping women throughout the world.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO
CHARLEVOIX HIGH SCHOOL
RAYDERS GIRLS BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches, and manager of the 2004 Charlevoix High School Rayders Girls Basketball team in recognition of their outstanding season. After an undefeated regular season, the Rayders continued their success in the playoffs, making it to the Class C state finals, and winning district and regional titles along the way.

While their 20–0 regular season, and seven post season wins, are impressive in their own right, the spirit of teamwork and unselfish play that the Rayders brought to the court this year was a shining example of what athletics should be about. All year, these young women, including the team's best players, were willing to play their role and do whatever it took to win.

One of the best examples of this was the team's performance in the state semi-finals and finals. After a year in which every game was a double-digit victory, the Charlevoix Rayders traveled to the Breslin Center in East Lansing, Michigan for the final two rounds of the playoffs where they would face their first stiff competition.

Charlevoix led Flint Hamady for almost all of the semi-final game on December 2, going into the 4th quarter up by ten points. Their opponent was not about to lose without a fight though, and with just under four minutes to go, Flint took a three-point lead. After two free throws by guard Laura Nitchman, All-State center Grace Farrell made a lay up to put the Rayders ahead for the win. The final score was 70–67 sending Charlevoix on to the state finals.

Though they lost to Detroit St. Martin dePorres two days later in the finals, the Rayders knew they had an incredible season. They appreciated the experience of playing in the Breslin Center and competing for the state championship. Just like they had all season, they showed character, class, and heart.

The commitment to success displayed by this team is no surprise to anyone familiar with the city of Charlevoix, which is a warm, close-knit community on Lake Michigan. As always, the "Rayder Nation" was right behind these young women who gave them a season to remember.

Mr. Speaker, each member of this team deserves to be recognized and I want to take a moment to share their names with my colleagues.

Team Members: Madison McKenzie, Madison Ramsey, Jaime Pettis, Laura Nitchman, Liz Jadwin, Stevie Murray, Shannon Dibble, Kari Way, Sara Cross, Genevieve Kochanny, Grace Farrell, Betsy Dennis, Caitlyn Cole, Sally Haselschwardt, and Bethany Pearson.

Head Coach Keith Haske; Assistant Coaches Bret Erskine, Jim Gels, and Liz Grunch; Trainer Joelle Beaudoin; and Manager Chelsey Haske.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Charlevoix Rayders girls basketball team, their

classmates, parents, and community on their success in the 2004 season and in wishing them well when they hit the court again in the fall.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DOLLY SEELMEYER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dolly Seelmeyer on the occasion of her recent retirement from the United States House of Representatives after 34 years of distinguished Service.

Shortly after she began to work for this august institution, Dolly became the first female photographer in the Office of Photography. To understand the length and breadth of the times she witnessed, one only has to know that when she began her tenure, Richard Nixon was President of the United States and Carl Albert was Speaker of the House. My friend, colleague and fellow Michigander Gerald Ford was Minority Leader of this body. She not only observed, but was able to record for posterity many significant events in the history of this body.

In addition to her expertise as a photographer, Dolly was of tremendous assistance to our offices as she helped us to obtain and preserve visual records of bygone times. Her professionalism and courtesy were always present as she helped us to document the history of the Congress. In addition to her official photos, her office was decorated with wonderful photographs of plants and flowers that she took in her own time.

We thank Dolly for her ongoing assistance in helping us to keep a record of the last quarter of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Dolly Seelmeyer for her 34 years of commitment and devotion to the House of Representatives and also to join me in wishing her the very best that life has to offer in the future.

COMMENDING AMERICORPS AND
THE WEST SENECA YOUTH
BUREAU FOR OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the AmeriCorps program in the town of West Seneca, New York, for its outstanding contributions to our Western New York and to recognize the West Seneca Youth Bureau for its exemplary service to the residents of Erie County and Western New York.

Through its network of more than 2,100 service programs, AmeriCorps has assisted millions of Americans through tutoring, running after school programs, building affordable housing, cleaning parks, and assisting with disaster relief.

A shining example of the significance of AmeriCorps' service to our Nation's commu-

nities is the West Seneca Youth Bureau of the town of West Seneca, in Erie County, New York. The West Seneca Youth Bureau hosts seven different AmeriCorps programs, and through these programs, volunteers have provided a broad range of needed services to Western New Yorkers.

West Seneca's Service Action Corps is one of the major donors of food in Western New York, delivering 15,000 pounds of food to local pantries every day. Through Standard Bearer's of America's Promise, AmeriCorps tutors provide young students in Buffalo and Erie County with the tools needed to help them become independent readers. Their Erie County Youth Conservation Corps program teaches marketable skills to at-risk youth so they can use these skills in the professional world. Through YouthBuild, at-risk youth learn basic construction and carpentry skills and gain college credits while building low cost housing for Western New Yorkers in need.

Since its inception, West Seneca AmeriCorps volunteers have shoveled more than one-half million pounds of snow for local residents and businesses, provided area food banks with over 6 million pounds of food, tutored more than 18,000 students, cleaned 150 nature trails, countless parks and playgrounds and cleared hundreds of vacant lots.

AmeriCorps' commitment to education, public safety, the environment and health has made it an incredibly successful organization that I am proud to recognize today. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers of AmeriCorps and the West Seneca Youth Bureau, thousands of my constituents have received much needed education and support. I congratulate the organization for 10 years of service, and look forward to working with them for years to come, and I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to recognize their achievements here today.

HONORING BG WILLIAM
TERPELUK, DEPUTY COM-
MANDER, 77TH REGIONAL READI-
NESS COMMAND, FORT TOTTEN,
NEW YORK

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor BG William Terpeluk. BG William Terpeluk will complete his term as Deputy Commander for the 77th Regional Readiness Command this month. He served from 31 March 2001–30 March 2005, which included valuable service during the events of September 11, 2001, and throughout the War on Terror.

The 77th Regional Readiness Command is the Army Reserve headquarters for over 11,000 Army Reserve soldiers. Approximately 6,500 Army Reserve soldiers have been mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Their service to our Nation is to be commended.

Throughout his career Brigadier General Terpeluk has served with honor and distinction. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement

Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster. He has also received the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbons.

Brigadier General Terpeluk is an Infantry Officer who received his commission as a Second Lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in 1974 from the Virginia Military Institute. After completing the Infantry Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, he served on Active Duty as the Executive Officer, Company E, 3d Battalion, 3d Basic Combat Training Brigade, Fort Dix, NJ.

Throughout his career Brigadier General Terpeluk has served at 79th United States Army Reserve Command, Willow Grove, PA, and in Camp Casey and Camp Howze, Korea.

Today, we honor his service to our city and to our Nation and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

CARNEY-NADEAU HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches and managers of the 2004 Carney-Nadeau High School Wolves girls basketball team in recognition of their outstanding season. The 24–2 Wolves went to the Michigan Class D semi-finals this year, winning Conference, District and Regional titles along the way.

Carney-Nadeau may be one of the smallest schools in their division, and in my district, but they have been a force to be reckoned with in the Upper Peninsula and statewide. Their trip to the state semi-finals on December 2nd at the Breslin Center in East Lansing continued their streak of post season success that started with a State Championship in 2001. In 2002, they went to the state semi-finals, and to the regional finals in 2003.

This tradition of excellence motivated the team all season long. But it is a tradition that has deep roots in this small but close-knit Upper Peninsula community. The basketball program is supported by fundraisers run by the players, and the community turns out to demonstrate that the team is important to them, and that they share the young women's pride in their on-court and off-court successes. It also gives them a real sense of ownership of the team and their community.

This support is not surprising when you know that Carney-Nadeau Public Schools is a district with grades K–12 in one building, giving it a family atmosphere where the older students, and especially the athletes, provide strong role-models for the younger ones. This sense of family is perhaps best represented by the team meals that the players' families take turns preparing before each game.

It is hard to talk about the Carney-Nadeau Wolves success this year without mentioning All-State senior Carly Benson. The 6-foot-2 center averaged 22.4 points, 11.1 rebounds, 5.1 blocks, 5.1 steals and 4.8 assists and shot 62 percent this year on her way to being named the Class D Player of the Year. But on

this team, all the players are leaders, and the team captain role rotated each game.

Mr. Speaker, each of these players deserves to be recognized, along with the coaches, managers, and school officials that were instrumental to their success, and I want to take a moment to share their names with my colleagues.

Team members: Katee Retaskie, Amanda Poupore, Lacey Retaskie, Meghan Schetter, Carly Benson, Jenny Grabowski, Rachel Kuntze, Roseann Schetter, Laurie Tuinstra, Ashley Folcik, Tarra Moran, and Meghan Marsicek.

Head Coach Paul Polfus, who is 482–120 in 25 years of coaching at Carney-Nadeau; Assistant Coaches Randy Severinsen, and Jon Ray; Trainer Marty Laurila; Managers Matt Polfus, Cory Thiry, Pete Adams, and Jared Benson; Athletic Director Ron Solberg; and Superintendent/Principal Ken Linder.

While their loss to Portland St. Patrick High School was disappointing, I know the Carney-Nadeau Wolves are rightly proud of their outstanding season, and all of the hard work, love, determination, perseverance, optimism, and skill they put in to it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Carney-Nadeau girls basketball team, their classmates, parents, and community on their success in the 2004 season and in wishing them well when they hit the court again in the fall.

ARTICLE ON ATROCITIES IN
DARFUR, SUDAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an excellent op-ed article written in today's New York Times by Nicolas D. Kristof titled "The American Witness." I ask that this article be inserted into the record. The op-ed article highlights the atrocities that are now occurring in Darfur, Sudan and the continuing level of indifference that the West has towards the people of Africa. In light of all of the rhetoric we hear from the United States regarding its strong commitment to liberate people from tyrant dictators, spread democracy around the world, and fight terrorism, I am left to wonder if these same principles do not apply to the people of Africa.

Without a doubt, genocide is occurring in Darfur, Sudan, and its government bears responsibility for the mass killings. Last summer, Congress declared the atrocities occurring in Darfur to be genocide, and the Bush Administration reached the same conclusion in September 2004. Nonetheless, the Bush Administration has done little, beyond acknowledging the crime, to engage the international community in stopping the slaughters of tens of thousands of innocent people. While there are no reliable estimates on the number of people killed as a result of the humanitarian crisis, observers estimate that 300,000 people have been killed since the beginning of the recent conflict in 2003. Meanwhile, an estimated 1.6 million people have been displaced from their homes and more than 213,000 people have been forced to seek refuge in neighboring Chad.

Last month, the United Nations released the Report of the International Commission on Inquiry on Darfur which stated that, "[g]overnment forces and militias conducted indiscriminate attacks, including killing of civilians, torture, enforced disappearances, destruction of villages, rape and other forms of sexual violence, pillaging and forced displacement throughout Darfur" and that such acts "were conducted on a widespread and systematic basis, and therefore may amount to crimes against humanity."

Now that the United Nations have substantiated what many of us have known for awhile, it is time that the West to take deliberative action to force the perpetrators of the genocide in Darfur to end the slaughter of innocent civilians. At the behest of the United States, the United Nations Security Council must pass a resolution condemning the crimes against humanity that are occurring in Darfur and impose sanctions against the Government of Sudan if they do not stop the killings. The Security Council should also act to freeze the assets of and deny entry visas to perpetrators of genocide, and extend the arms embargo to the Government of Sudan.

In addition to these actions, the Bush Administration should work with its NATO allies to provide the African Union forces with concrete assistance and peace keeping troops on the ground in Darfur. I encourage the Bush Administration to continue to provide critical logistical and equipment support to the African Union forces. Finally, I also encourage that Administration to reappoint a Special Envoy to Sudan as quickly as possible to ensure that the United States has a visible role in resolving this horrific crisis.

The plight of the people of Darfur should garner great sympathy from the Bush Administration. Now that we know Iraq had no Weapons of Mass Destruction and no connection to the 9–11 attacks, the President claims a mandate to engage in war to liberate oppressed people from tyrannical governments. Should not his so-called God-given mandate compel him to take the lead in getting our friends on the United Nation's Security Council to impose sanctions on the government of Sudan and, if necessary, institute other deliberative measures to stop the killing? After all, if the Bush Administration can send young men and women from poor communities and National Guard and reservists into Iraq to liberate its people from the tyrant forces of Saddam Hussein, then surely we can take steps to get the international community to stop the killing in Sudan and bring the perpetrators to justice.

If we can learn any lessons from history, we should commit ourselves to ensuring that we do not fail the people of Sudan in the manner in which we failed the people of Rwanda where an estimated one million people who were slaughtered in the early 1990's while the world community sat on the sidelines. Only now are Americans learning through the movie Hotel Rwanda how we as a Nation failed a people. The crisis that is occurring in Darfur presents the Bush Administration with an opportunity to resuscitate its reputation in the international community.

[From the New York Times, March 2, 2005.]

THE AMERICAN WITNESS

(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

American soldiers are trained to shoot at the enemy. They're prepared to be shot at. But what young men like Brian Steidle are

not equipped for is witnessing a genocide but being unable to protect the civilians pleading for help.

If President Bush wants to figure out whether the U.S. should stand more firmly against the genocide in Darfur, I suggest that he invite Mr. Steidle to the White House to give a briefing. Mr. Steidle, a 28-year-old former Marine captain, was one of just three American military advisers for the African Union monitoring team in Darfur—and he is bursting with frustration.

"Every single day you go out to see another burned village, and more dead bodies," he said. "And the children—you see 6-month-old babies that have been shot, and 3-year-old kids with their faces smashed in with rifle butts. And you just have to stand there and write your reports."

While journalists and aid workers are sharply limited in their movements in Darfur, Mr. Steidle and the monitors traveled around by truck and helicopter to investigate massacres by the Sudanese government and the janjaweed militia it sponsors. They have sometimes been shot at, and once his group was held hostage, but they have persisted and become witnesses to systematic crimes against humanity.

So is it really genocide?

"I have no doubt about that," Mr. Steidle said. "It's a systematic cleansing of peoples by the Arab chiefs there. And when you talk to them, that's what they tell you. They're very blunt about it. One day we met a janjaweed leader and he said, 'Unless you get back four camels that were stolen in 2003, then we're going to go to these four villages and burn the villages, rape the women, kill everyone.' And they did."

The African Union doesn't have the troops, firepower or mandate to actually stop the slaughter, just to monitor it. Mr. Steidle said his single most frustrating moment came in December when the Sudanese government and the janjaweed attacked the village of Labado, which had 25,000 inhabitants. Mr. Steidle and his unit flew to the area in helicopters, but a Sudanese general refused to let them enter the village—and also refused to stop the attack.

"It was extremely frustrating—seeing the village burn, hearing gunshots, not being able to do anything," Mr. Steidle said. "The entire village is now gone. It's a big black spot on the earth."

When Sudan's government is preparing to send bombers or helicopter gunships to attack an African village, it shuts down the cellphone system so no one can send out warnings. Thus the international monitors know when a massacre is about to unfold. But there's usually nothing they can do.

The West, led by the Bush administration, is providing food and medical care that is keeping hundreds of thousands of people alive. But we're managing the genocide, not halting it.

"The world is failing Darfur," said Jan Egeland, the U.N. under secretary general for humanitarian affairs. "We're only playing the humanitarian card, and we're just witnessing the massacres."

President Bush is pushing for sanctions, but European countries like France are disgracefully cool to the idea—and China is downright hostile, playing the same supportive role for the Darfur genocide that it did for the Khmer Rouge genocide.

Mr. Steidle has just quit his job with the African Union, but he plans to continue working in Darfur to do his part to stand up to the killers. Most of us don't have to go to that extreme of risking our lives in Darfur—we just need to get off the fence and push our government off, too.

At one level, I blame President Bush—and, even more, the leaders of European, Arab

and African nations—for their passivity. But if our leaders are acquiescing in genocide, that's because we citizens are passive, too. If American voters cared about Darfur's genocide as much as about, say, the Michael Jackson trial, then our political system would respond. One useful step would be the passage of the Darfur Accountability Act, to be introduced today by Senators Jon Corzine and Sam Brownback. The legislation calls for such desperately needed actions as expanding the African Union force and establishing a military no-fly zone to stop Sudan from bombing civilians.

As Martin Luther King Jr. put it: "Man's inhumanity to man is not only perpetrated by the vitriolic actions of those who are bad. It is also perpetrated by the vitiating inaction of those who are good."

HAITI

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for increased awareness and aid to the impoverished citizens of Haiti.

Haiti gained its independence in 1804 from France, becoming the first independent Black nation. Today, Haiti has over 8.3 million people, with 80% living in abject poverty. Haiti is one of the most impoverished nations in the Western Hemisphere. Less than 45 percent of all Haitians have access to potable water.

The life expectancy rate in Haiti is only 53 years. The unemployment rate is estimated to be around 60 percent; and the literacy rate is approximately 45 percent. Eighty out of 1,000 Haitian children never see their first birthday. Half the population of Haiti earns \$60 or less per year. The total expenditure on health per person is \$54 (compared to \$4,499 in the USA and \$483 in Mexico).

Health conditions in Haiti are very poor. Such examples include:

Haiti is one of the most impoverished nations in the Western Hemisphere and the fourth poorest country in the world.

Ninety percent of all HIV and AIDS infections in the Caribbean are in Haiti: over 300,000 infected people have been identified and deaths from HIV/AIDS have left 163,000 children orphaned.

Haiti's infant mortality rate is staggering: 74 deaths per 1,000 live births and the maternal mortality rate is approximately 1400 deaths for every 100,000.

Only 1 in every 10,000 Haitians has access to a physician, and less than 40 percent of Haitians have access to potable water.

Cases of TB in Haiti are more than ten times as high as those in other Latin American countries.

Tuberculosis remains a major cause of adult mortality; rates are thought to be the highest in the hemisphere. Cases of TB in Haiti are more than ten times as high as those in other Latin American countries.

The United States spends billions of dollars every year supporting various military and foreign operations across the globe and yet, basic human needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and education often have a lower priority in our expenditures. These basic human needs are a right of every citizen on our plan-

et. We should want for our sister and brother, what we would want for ourselves, and put this belief into action.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to reiterate my support for increased awareness and aid to the impoverished citizens of Haiti. I stand with Representative BARBARA LEE and the Congressional Black Caucus to draw attention to the plight of the Haitian people.

ON THE COUP D'ETAT IN HAITI

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago this week, our government was a party to a coup d'etat in Haiti, the Western Hemisphere's poorest country. President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the democratically-elected President of Haiti, was forced to leave Haiti in a regime change supported by the United States. President Aristide left the country on February 29, 2004, on board a U.S. airplane when U.S. Marines and Embassy officials came to his home in the wee hours of the morning and told him to leave immediately or he and thousands of other Haitians would be killed.

One year later, the tragic results of regime change in Haiti are clear. Haiti is in total chaos. The interim government, which was put in power by the United States and has received unprecedented support from our government, is a complete failure. Violence is widespread, and security is non-existent. Schools are shut down; hospitals are not operating; and roads and infrastructure are in disrepair. Dead bodies are found lying in the streets.

Heavily-armed gangs roam Haiti freely. Many of these gangs consist of former soldiers from the brutal Haitian army, which was disbanded 10 years ago. Residents of poor neighborhoods and members of Lavalas, President Aristide's political party, are murdered without any legal consequences. Members of Haiti's wealthy elite, including American citizen Andy Apaid, are widely suspected of financing the former soldiers and paying gangs to kill Lavalas supporters. In some neighborhoods, Lavalas supporters have taken up arms and begun to fight back against this oppression. So the violence is escalating in Haiti, and no one is safe.

The interim government has been unable to enforce the rule of law, disarm the gangs, or restore the government's authority in the cities controlled by former soldiers. When Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue set a deadline of September 15 of last year for all groups holding illegal weapons to disarm, the deadline came and went, but nothing happened.

After the interim government failed to disarm the former soldiers, it resorted to bribing them. According to press reports in January, the interim government agreed to provide payments over a 3-month-period to all of the estimated 6,000 former members of the Haitian army. The payments will average about \$4,800 per person—in a country where most people live on less than a dollar a day. The cost of these payments was estimated to be \$29 million. The interim government never explained where the funds for these payments would be obtained, but Interim Prime Minister Latortue

has already distributed checks to dozens of armed individuals who claim to be former soldiers and who still refuse to turn in their weapons. Is this the conduct of a government that wants to disarm the thugs, or a government that supports them?

Human rights violations are commonplace throughout Haiti. Amnesty International has expressed serious concerns about arbitrary arrests, ill-treatment in detention centers, and summary executions attributed to members of the Haitian National Police. Several members of President Aristide's government and prominent supporters of Lavalas have been detained illegally, including former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, former Interior Minister Jocelerme Privert, and Haitian singer Anne Auguste. As of February 18, there were over 700 political prisoners in Haiti's jails. Most of these prisoners have been held illegally for months without formal charges.

The incompetence of the interim government has manifested itself in other ways as well. Haiti's government was the only government in the path of Hurricane Jeanne that did not warn or evacuate its citizens when the storm came racing through the Caribbean last September. Jeanne pummeled the United States, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Barbados as a full-blown hurricane, and killed 34 people in all of those countries combined. She was only a tropical storm when she hit Haiti, but she killed over 3,000 Haitians and left thousands more hungry and homeless, because the interim government was unprepared to protect the Haitian people.

The Provisional Electoral Council, which is responsible for organizing elections, has been discredited by corruption. Roselor Julien, the former president of the Council, resigned last November, warning that other panel members were trying to rig the ballot and the council was not capable of ensuring the elections would be free and fair. The council also does not include any representatives of Lavalas, which continues to enjoy widespread support among the Haitian people despite the imprisonment of its leaders. It is abundantly clear that the council is incapable of organizing free and fair elections. If the current council does manage to organize elections, only the winners will accept the result.

The people of Haiti have suffered tremendously over the past year. They deserve better. They deserve to live in peace and security. They deserve to be warned when hurricanes are headed for their homes. They deserve to know that they can walk to work or buy groceries without having gangs kill them for the food they carry. And they deserve free, fair and democratic elections in which all political parties can participate.

When President Aristide was forced to leave Haiti a year ago, he was told that if he refused to leave, thousands of Haitians would die. Yet, in the 12 months that followed his departure, thousands of Haitians have died, and as long as the interim government continues to fail, there will be no end to the suffering and violence facing the Haitian people.

It is time for the United States Government to accept the fact that regime change has failed in Haiti. The United States must ensure that Haiti disarms the thugs, immediately frees political prisoners, and organizes free and fair elections in order to restore security and democracy to the Haitian people. The United States must also provide the necessary assistance to enable Haiti to reopen schools and hospitals and rebuild Haiti's infrastructure. It is time for the United States to clean up its mess.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 02, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today's debate is an extremely important conversation on the future of Social Security. The simple facts of the matter are that Social Security is not in a state of crisis, it will not go bankrupt and it will always be there for those who contribute to it. Unfortunately, the plans promoted by this Administration and my Republican colleagues do nothing to address the core issues related to the Trust Fund's solvency. Instead, the issue has been draped in rhetoric in pursuit of an ideological agenda that will not save Social Security but in fact will put it at greater risk. Americans across the country, from Kansas to California and from New Hampshire to New Mexico, whether black or white, man or woman, will have their benefits cut and the financial safety net removed from their retirement. While Republican proposals will hurt everyone, women are particularly at risk. As Republicans regale us with misleading statements and flowery predictions, the cold hard facts of reality reveals a somber picture.

More than 24 million women receive Social Security benefits. They make up 58 percent of seniors who receive Social Security and without it, 53 percent of all senior women would be poor. In 2000, Social Security saved seven million women from poverty. More than seven million women receive disability or survivor benefits. These numbers deserve our undivided attention. The current proposal would

cut these benefits by more than 40 percent over the coming decades. If the President's plan were put in to effect, trillions of dollars would be taken out of Social Security, endangering the benefits of current retirees and people with disabilities. These are Americans who have contributed to the Trust Fund their entire working lives and now their guaranteed benefits are endangered. For years we have looked out for our fellow Americans, to lift them up and prove to them that no man, woman or child, regardless of race, religion, or socioeconomic status, will be left behind. Never in my 24 years in Congress have I seen such disregard for our countrymen and women. In a time when we are asking so many to sacrifice so much, this Administration appears ready to dismantle an incredibly successful and equitable program. At the same time, the President's tax policy will cost 3 to 5 times as much as the shortfall predicted by the Social Security Administration (SSA). The Medicare Program is already running a shortfall that is almost 8 times as much as Social Security.

This effort will do nothing to address the real problems facing the Social Security Trust Fund. Social Security plays a unique role in the lives of women. We know women live longer than men and make less in the workplace. Rather than ensure that the Social Security Trust Fund can provide for these women and their families, the Administration wants to cut benefits and create a risky privatization plan that does not guarantee a livable rate of return.

Social Security is truly one of our greatest success stories, virtually eliminating poverty for the aged. While we all agree that important concerns about Social Security should be effectively addressed, I do not believe turning this matter into a crisis should force us to accept what would otherwise be unacceptable. I am concerned that the scenarios suggested by the Administration do not serve us well as we conduct this domestic policy debate. Manufacturing a crisis with an ideological agenda is unacceptable.

Social Security is the core of old-age support and was intended as an income supplement and a crucial safety net for seniors, not a money making scheme. We must preserve Social Security through sound fiscal discipline and legitimate policy adjustments to meet the demands of future generations. Instead of weakening Social Security I believe that it should be strengthened and made more secure ensuring its success for generations to come. We cannot turn Social Security into Social Insecurity.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 7

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael Jackson, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SH-216

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Thomas B. Griffith, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

SD-226

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine S. 271, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify when organizations described in section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 must register as political committees.

SR-301

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SD-106

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 179, to provide for the exchange of land within the Sierra National Forest, California, S. 213, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, S. 267, to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and S. 305, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit volunteers to assist with or facilitate the activities of various agencies and offices of the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.

345 CHOB

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine ways to encourage the diversification of power generation resources.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

European Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the future of democracy in the Black Sea area.

SD-419

Judiciary

Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine terrorism and the electromagnetic pulse (EMP) threat to homeland security.

SD-226

3 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the challenges facing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2005, focusing on security and human rights.

SD-192

MARCH 9

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 147, to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity; to be followed by an oversight hearing on trust reform.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Ronald Rosenfeld, of Oklahoma, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board; to be followed by a hearing to examine the state of the securities industry.

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patricia Lynn Scarlett, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and Jeffrey Clay Sell, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 250, to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act, the Caring for Children Act of 2005, S. 172, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of all contact lenses as medical devices, the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, and any nominations ready for action.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to ex-

amine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

SH-216

MARCH 10

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To continue hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SR-328A

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Blinded Veterans Association, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Jewish War Veterans.

345 CHOB

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To resume hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements from combatant commanders in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SD-106

MARCH 17

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; to be followed by a closed hearing in SH-219.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Coast Guard Operational Readiness/Mission Balance.

SR-253

APRIL 14

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

345 CHOB

APRIL 21

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, and the Gold Star Wives of America.

345 CHOB

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB